■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Fil-Am Oscar nominee picks RP designers' creation

■ BUSINESS / B2-1

Economic hits and misses of the past 20 years

■ LIFESTYLE / C1

Edades, father of Philippine modern art, remembered

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Now you can view "Edsa 20: Isang Larawan," the INQUIRER documentary, again, or even download your own copy, free of charge. Just log on to www.inq7.net. No subscription and no registration required.

2 Fil-Ams win top int'l award for indie film

By Ruben V. Nepales
Los Angeles Correspondent

SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA—TWO FILipino-Americans have won the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award in the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards for their film "Cavite."

Ian Gamazon and Neill Dela Llana, who were both born in the Philippines and grew up in the United States, received a $25,000 grant with the

2 FIL-AMS/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, March 6, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 88 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Beltran followers sneak past Camp Crame guards

By Luige A. del Puerto and Michael Lim Ubac

SOME 30 SUPPORTERS of Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, who is being held in Camp Crame on charges of rebellion, managed to sneak past heavily armed guards at the gates

BELTRAN/ A22

ANDAMI NUN A, LUSOT PA DIN?

Rebels seek answers to generals' poll links

Say talks with GMA must deal with fraud

By Fe Zamora

ANY TALKS BETWEEN President Macapagal-Arroyo and restive soldiers on defusing the political crisis must include the issue of the involvement of generals in probable fraud in the May 2004 election.

A source close to a military group that had threatened to withdraw its support from Ms Arroyo yesterday told the INQUIRER that this was the position the group had taken in response to Malacañang's statement that the President was "ready to hold a dialogue" with different sectors of the Armed Forces.

"The involvement of the military in election cheating should be on the agenda. Not just a few were actually involved (in the cheating), practically the whole institution was," the source said, relaying the position of the group.

The statement would suggest that as far as the group was concerned, the "Hello Garci" wiretap controversy remained a live issue that Ms Arroyo must fully resolve if she hoped to find political peace.

The names of at least four top military officials were mentioned in the alleged wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano supposedly involving rigging the results of the 2004 presidential election.

The names of Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., then chief of the Special Operations Command; Southcom chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, then chief of the 1st Infantry Division, and then Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko (ret.) were mentioned in the tapes.

Esperon has been mentioned in military circles as a possible

REBELS SEEK/ A6

WINNING BEAUTIES. The winners of the Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant—(from left) Denille Lou Valmonte, Bb. Pilipinas-International; Lia Andrea Ramos, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe, and Ana Maris Igpit, Bb. Pilipinas-World—rejoice after Saturday night's coronation at the Araneta Center in Quezon City. *(Story in Metro, Page A24.)*

TV docus prop up Palace prop war

By Christine O. Avendaño and Luige A. del Puerto

OVER THE WEEKEND, FOLLOWing the lifting of the state of national emergency, the government went on yet another offensive, this time to win the hearts and minds of the people.

After showing on Friday a short documentary on the alleged conspiracy to bring down the administration, government TV stations ran two other documentaries about military coup plotters and communist "terrorists."

RPN-9 ran on Saturday "Art of Deception," which looked into the communist movement in the country, and "Sa Kuko ng Coup d'Etat," which was about the people behind the Oakwood mutiny in July 2003.

The two documentaries were made last year by the National Alliance for Democracy (NAD), according to Government Media Secretary Cerge Remonde.

"Because of what happened recently, these documentaries are relevant in the present situation," Remonde said.

He said the government was in the midst of a propaganda war, with its detractors relentlessly discrediting it.

"No one can take away the right of the government to ensure it won't be drowned out in this propaganda war," he said.

Malacañang released on Friday a 12.5-minute documentary titled "Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017" that it produced to explain why President Macapagal-Arroyo had to declare a state of emergency after foiling a coup attempt on

TV DOCUS/ A22

After lifting of 1017, war of attrition begins

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo lifted Proclamation No. 1017 putting the country in a state of national emergency, she claimed her declaration had left the nation "stronger for dealing quickly and decisively with this issue" of armed challenge to topple her administration.

This claim overstates the results of the proclamation in effect for a week, a week packed with events that changed the political balance of power, promising another round of political instability once the shock effect of the emergency declaration wears off.

There's no question Ms Arroyo acted decisively to abort a plot involving the withdrawal by strategic military contingents of support for her administration.

The plot called for the defecting units to join the rally of political opponents of the regime on Feb. 24 at Edsa, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the first People Power Revolution in 1986.

The units were to proclaim their withdrawal of support, serving as the signal to spark wider military defections and street insurrections in which civilians were expected by the plotters to join in a reprise of People Power I.

In revoking 1017, the President said "the most important achievement of 1017 is the preemptive action, to prevent an

AFTER/ A22

RP, Thailand crises set back democracy in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK—WITH ONLY A SINgle rising star on the horizon, democracy in Southeast Asia is taking a beating as mass demonstrations seek to dislodge an elected but authoritarian leader in Thailand and the Philippines reels after a weeklong state of emergency over an alleged coup plot.

Across the region, the health of democracy ranges from fragile to abysmal, with one once unlikely exception. Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation and still recovering from three decades of dictatorship, is making significant progress toward rule of law, media freedom and transparency.

"The problem in some cases is the abuse of weak democracies, the exploitation by leaders of those parts of the system which aren't really democratic or strong," says Robert Broadfoot of the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy.

Although the tide against him appears to be rising, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand has managed to survive mass street protests calling for his ouster on grounds of corruption, abuse of power and gutting democratic institutions. *(See related story in The World, Page A8)*

So far, the protests have been peaceful, compared with the military interventions and bloodshed that used to bedevil Thai politics.

But its democracy is moving into uncharted political waters because opposition parties are vowing to boycott parliamentary elections that Thaksin has called for April 2.

In the Philippines, fear is mounting that a campaign to destabilize President Macapagal-Arroyo is fraying the fabric of

RP, THAILAND/ A6

SUBIC RAPE CASE

Don't judge me too harshly, says victim

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

THE VISIT TO THE SUBIC BAY Freeport on Halloween night was supposed to be a family outing—until it turned into a nightmare.

Two elder brothers had dropped off 22-year-old Nicole—not her real name—at a bar. She was accompanied by a sister, aged 12, and an American serviceman, a longtime family friend.

She felt totally at home in the bar with other US servicemen on furlough from a joint RP-US counterterrorism exercise in the Philippines.

She grew up in a naval facility in Zamboanga, where her family runs a canteen frequented by US servicemen.

After finishing her Management Accounting course at the Ateneo de Davao and starting a

DON'T JUDGE/ A21

UNDER ONE ROOF The P50-million Cebu Daily News Building puts together the INQUIRER's Visayas Bureau, CDN and Bandera in one integrated newsroom, as well as FEP Printing Corp. and Lexmedia Digital. Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. speaks during the building's inauguration on Wednesday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, a tropical depression was estimated at 1,220 kms east of southern Mindanao, with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center. Forecast to move west at 9 kph. Frontal system affecting eastern Luzon and eastern Visayas.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/05/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Rains

'Corruption at root of RP problems'

Church leader says Pinoys should come up with new breed of leaders

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP IS JUST THE "TIP of the iceberg," according to the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

The problem, said Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo in a lecture posted in his blogsite, "is a concatenation of corruption that goes down to the barangay level, up and down and up, infecting the whole body politic like a contagious cancer."

"It deprives the poor of permanent shelter, health benefits, liberating education, dignified employment and, above all, sufficient food," he said.

To cure what he called a "social cancer," Filipinos should combine their efforts and come up with a "new breed of leaders in our country."

Lagdameo was trying to rally the country behind a "new social order" in an apparent response to the seeming void created by the arrival and departure of politicians, all of whom appeared to be enslaved by traditional politics.

This vision was contained in a "national roadmap" focused on "sowing the seeds of hope through moral values."

The strategy was consistent with the January CBCP pastoral letter that pointed to a crisis of moral values as the center of the problem in Philippine society today.

LAGDAMEO

Lagdameo said such a crisis seriously affected the poor who were "oftentimes exploited and treated like commodities."

"Graft and corruption have been flagrant and endemic, breeding poverty. Widespread poverty in turn breeds graft and corruption," he said.

Lagdameo said the roadmap asks all "drivers of change"—meaning family, school, business enterprises, government units and all other sectors of society—what they could do for the common good of the national community.

"In trying to answer this question, [the roadmap] strongly suggests that whatever answer we give must be fully consistent with the vision and mission we should have for our country and the core values that should underlie all aspects of our national life," he said.

A crucial first step would be to gather a "critical mass of like-minded and good-willed nationalists with a passion and obsession for good governance and prophetic leadership" from which a "new breed of statespersons" would be born, Lagdameo said.

"This critical mass will be the training ground of other nationalists who will lead our country with the values of honesty and justice, truth and integrity, credibility and accountability, transparency and stewardship," he said.

According to Lagdameo, the country's institutions would be strong if they were anchored on "morals, ethics, social responsibility and good governance."

"Such strong institutions could then work together to enhance the personal dignity of every individual as well as to promote the common good of our country," he said. "This happens, however, only if the agents of change and the transmitters of values in our society are empowered and invested with a deep sense of responsible citizenship."

Gonzalez justifies continuing media watch

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ yesterday cited the Revised Penal Code in justifying the continued surveillance of seven unnamed media personalities even after Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country under a state of national emergency, had been lifted.

"Under the Revised Penal Code, even if there is no Proclamation 1017, there is a law on inciting to sedition, there is a law on rebellion, there is a law on sedition, there is a law on libel," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

Gonzalez made the remarks when asked why the government was still monitoring the moves of media practitioners now that PP 1017 had been lifted.

He said if media practitioners were found committing the violations, then they would be held liable.

The Revised Penal Code lists criminal acts and their corresponding penalties.

Gonzalez refused to identify the seven print and broadcast media personalities being watched. "I don't want to name them yet," he said.

After President Macapagal-Arroyo imposed emergency rule through PP 1017 on Feb. 24, police raided the offices of The Daily Tribune, a broadsheet which had been critical of her administration.

The military also deployed troops to secure television stations ABS-CBN and GMA-7.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao later warned media to follow government standards in reporting the news.

After the state of emergency was lifted, sedition charges were filed against Tribune publisher and editor in chief Ninez Cacho-Olivares and two of the paper's columnists.

Gonzalez also said the footage of ABS-CBN's coverage of the Feb. 26 standoff at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifaco was being reviewed.

The six-hour standoff began after junior Marine officers led by Medal of Valor awardee Col. Ariel Querubin protested the relief of Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

Leila B. Salaverria

Militant studes disown former leader Defensor

A MILITANT STUDENT GROUP formerly headed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor has disowned him for defending Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 and for advising media to restrain itself in its coverage.

In a statement, the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) branded as "irresponsible, if not downright despicable" statements made by Defensor that media must practice self-restraint in the coverage of political events and developments.

Defensor was NUSP president in 1988-89.

"That someone who was once the national president of our organization could utter such statements dismays and infuriates us. We wonder how he could still bear to look at himself in the mirror," the NUSP statement said.

It said that Defensor had failed to live up to NUSP tradition. "We unequivocally disown him and we do not hesitate to erase him from our history books."

The NUSP also accused Defensor of turning his back on the principles of freedom of expression and, worse, "even being party to silencing the students and the people."

"Our message to Defensor: Shut up if you know no better than to 'defend' Arroyo's repressive Proclamation 1017 and to continue being a lackey of this already desperate regime," the NUSP said.

The NUSP is a national alliance of student councils and governments with 650 members nationwide. It was established in 1957 and has since been at the vanguard of students' struggle for their rights and welfare in solidarity with the people's struggle for genuine freedom and democracy.

During the Marcos regime, the NUSP was banned along with other anti-Marcos organizations.

Alcuin Papa

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TRUST OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA

LP board meet to decide fate of Atienza et al.

By TJ Burgonio

TOP OFFICIALS OF THE SPLINTERED LIBERAL Party are set to meet today to decide the fate of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and other party members who elected a new set of LP officers last Thursday, a move branded as "illegal" by party president Sen. Franklin Drilon.

The LP national board, composed of the party's top seven officers, will tackle the action "to be taken against the usurpers," former Education Undersecretary Jose Luis Gascon said yesterday.

"We have to deal with what they did last Thursday in a firm manner," Gascon, a member of the LP National Executive Committee (NECO), who questioned and then walked out of Thursday's proceedings, said in a phone interview.

While Sen. Manuel Roxas II had argued that members of Atienza's breakaway group should be deemed to have resigned, the party had yet to decide whether to expel them or keep their positions vacant, Gascon said.

"These are still the subject of discussions," he said, stressing the party had to establish whether its members "deliberately" took part in the election or were duped into participating.

The LP national board is composed of Atienza as chair; Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, vice chair; Senate President Drilon, president; Rep. Nereus Acosta, executive vice president; Rep. Benigno Aquino III, secretary general; Rep. Rafael Nantes, treasurer; Roxas, vice president for advocacies, and Rep. Junnie Cua, vice president for external affairs.

Gascon said he assumed the party secretariat had invited Atienza and his ally Cua to the meeting, but doubted they would show up. Without them, the five members of the board would still constitute a quorum, he said.

The scheduled meeting comes three days after Drilon, through legal counsel Alberto Agra, petitioned the Commission on Elections to nullify the election results and bar Atienza and his allies from misrepresenting themselves as the party's new officers.

In the elections, Drilon was ousted as party president and replaced by Atienza. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and three other Cabinet members were elected to other top positions. President Macapagal-Arroyo made an appearance after the election.

Atienza was presiding over a party conference on decentralization at the Manila Hotel last Thursday when he called for an election of new LP officers.

Drilon was quick to brand it as illegal, saying the mayor had no authority to convene the NECO and that only 32 out of 103 NECO members took part in the election.

Some irate LP officials charged that Malacañang's interference in the party's affairs was part of a grand design to destroy the party system through a "divide and rule tactic" and establish a one-party state.

"We are confident our position will be affirmed by the Comelec. All laws and jurisprudence are in our favor," Gascon said.

New US envoy sworn in, arriving soon

NEW US AMBASSADOR TO THE Philippines Kristie Kenney took her oath on Monday (Washington time) and will be arriving in Manila within the month, according to US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill who recently wound up a three-day visit here.

The first woman American ambassador to the country assumes the post that has been vacant the last 10 months after her predecessor Francis Ricciardone was reassigned to the Middle East. During that period, Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones was the top US diplomat in Manila.

"In the next few weeks we will be welcoming a new ambassador here, Kristie Kenney, so we're looking forward to having Kristie here and I know she's looking forward to getting here," Hill told reporters at his pre-departure briefing last week.

Kenney's nomination was confirmed by the US Senate on Feb. 17.

A career foreign service officer, she recently completed an assignment as US ambassador to Ecuador. She has served at outposts in Geneva, Argentina and Jamaica, and held senior positions at the state department and the National Security Council in Washington.

During her Jan. 31 confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Kenney said the US and the Philippines had strong economic and people-to-people ties and shared common goals of enhancing security and increasing prosperity. *Volt Contreras*

Erap won't be ready to testify, says lawyer

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER SEN. RENE SAGUISAG HAS TOLD the Sandiganbayan that former President Joseph Estrada would not be able to testify in his plunder trial on March 15 because of a lack of preparation.

In an urgent manifestation filed before the antigraft court's Special Division on Thursday, Saguisag said: "We cannot in all probability be ready on March 15 for reasons beyond our control."

He said that Estrada's recent eye operation resulted in "the loss of a week of preparation."

Saguisag also said that since members of Estrada's legal defense team were "lawyering" for other clients, they needed more time to prepare for the case.

Estrada's lawyers have been complaining about the time they spent traveling to and from the former President's detention estate in Tanay, Rizal. They have sought the court's permission to move Estrada to his residence in San Juan.

Estrada, meanwhile, said he was not a threat to national security but only to the administration of Ms Arroyo because "I am still the legitimate president."

"*Bakit ako o kami magiging* threat *sa* (How could I be a threat to) national security?" the 68-year-old Estrada said.

He said at least 80 percent of the people want Ms Arroyo out, adding that his personal liberty was no longer important to him.

"*Ang mahalaga ay ang kalayaan ng bansa sa kahirapan, katiwalian at ang kalayaan ng mamamayan na maghanap ng katotohanan na pilit binubusalan sa pamamagitan ng* railroading *ng* impeachment complaint *at paglalabas ng* (What's important is that the country is free from poverty and corruption, that people have the freedom to know the truth which is muzzled by) Executive Orders 464 at 1017," Estrada said.

'Comfort women' measure sought

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 72 out of a total of 722 Japanese legislators have signed a petition for a bill obliging their government to issue formal apologies and compensation to victims of sexual violence by Japanese soldiers stationed in Asia, including the Philippines, during World War II.

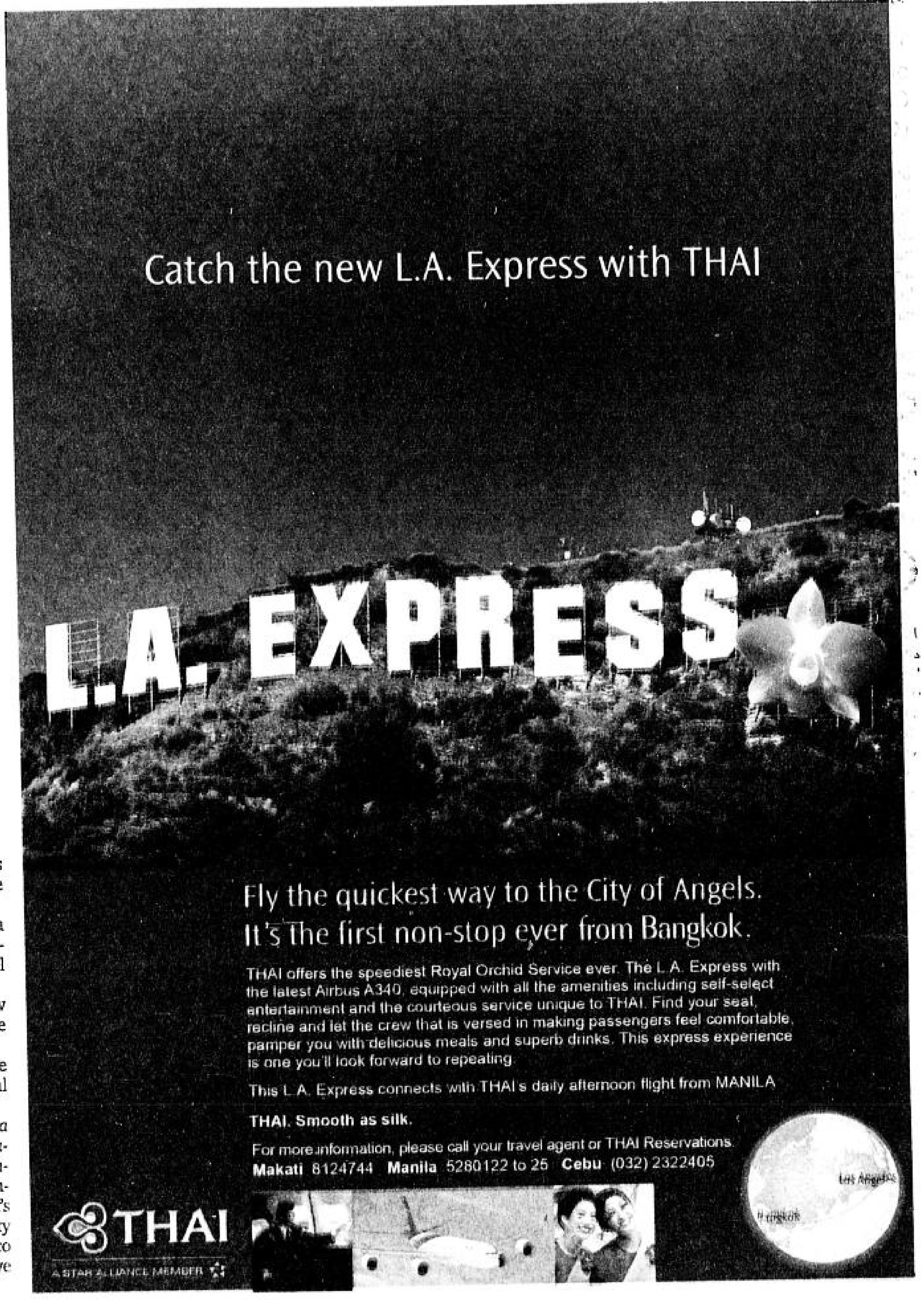
Ichiro Hirata, spokesperson of the Tokyo-based Santama Peace Cycle Network, on Saturday told the INQUIRER he shared the "good news" with 62 surviving victims of mass rape in Barangay Mapanique in Candaba, Pampanga.

The week-long "Peace Cycle 2006" made its first stopover in Mapanique on Thursday.

Hirata said Diet member Shokichi Kina of Okinawa initiated the petition that seeks to gather 400 more signatures.

Hirata, 56, braves natural elements and physical stress to reach out to the victims of war.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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NGO worker abducted in Aurora

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A NONGOVERNMENT organization worker and radio anchor abducted by armed men in Baler, Aurora, on Friday night has remained missing, his colleagues said.

The search for Joey Estriber, 35, program officer of the Catholic Church-backed Bataris, has turned up negative, according to Josefina Marino, a fellow program officer of the victim.

According to police, witnesses reported seeing Estriber cry out for help as he was thrown into a heavily tinted maroon Besta van without license plates by four men at around 7 p.m. near Baler's electric cooperative office.

The police and military have put up checkpoints along the Pantabangan-Canili highway in a bid to find Estriber.

Troops from the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion were suspected to have taken Estriber after the victim stopped four soldiers from attending a Bataris-sponsored forum and campaign planning on Charter change on Feb. 28.

In a text message to the INQUIRER that day, Estriber identified two of those who barged into the forum as 2Lt. Donato Molina and a Sergeant Sanchez.

Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, 48th IB commander, denied his men had a role in the abduction.

Estriber, as secretary general of the Multi-Sectoral Action Group of Aurora, led the group's campaign against large-scale mining and illegal logging.

He was also the anchor of the radio program Pag-usapan Natin over dzJO in Baler.

Two messages from Estriber's cell phone were received half an hour after he was kidnapped saying, "*Huwag kayong mag-alala, ok lang ako* (Don't worry, I'm all right)," and "*Nagtatago ako* (I'm in hiding)." The recipients of the messages, however, doubted they came from Estriber.

Recent incidents suggest the Bataris formation center may have been making enemies. A Bataris building was burned down in December and two of its staff members were nearly abducted in the same month. In February, a military officer said on the radio that members of nongovernment organizations like Bataris were in the military's "order of battle."

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP

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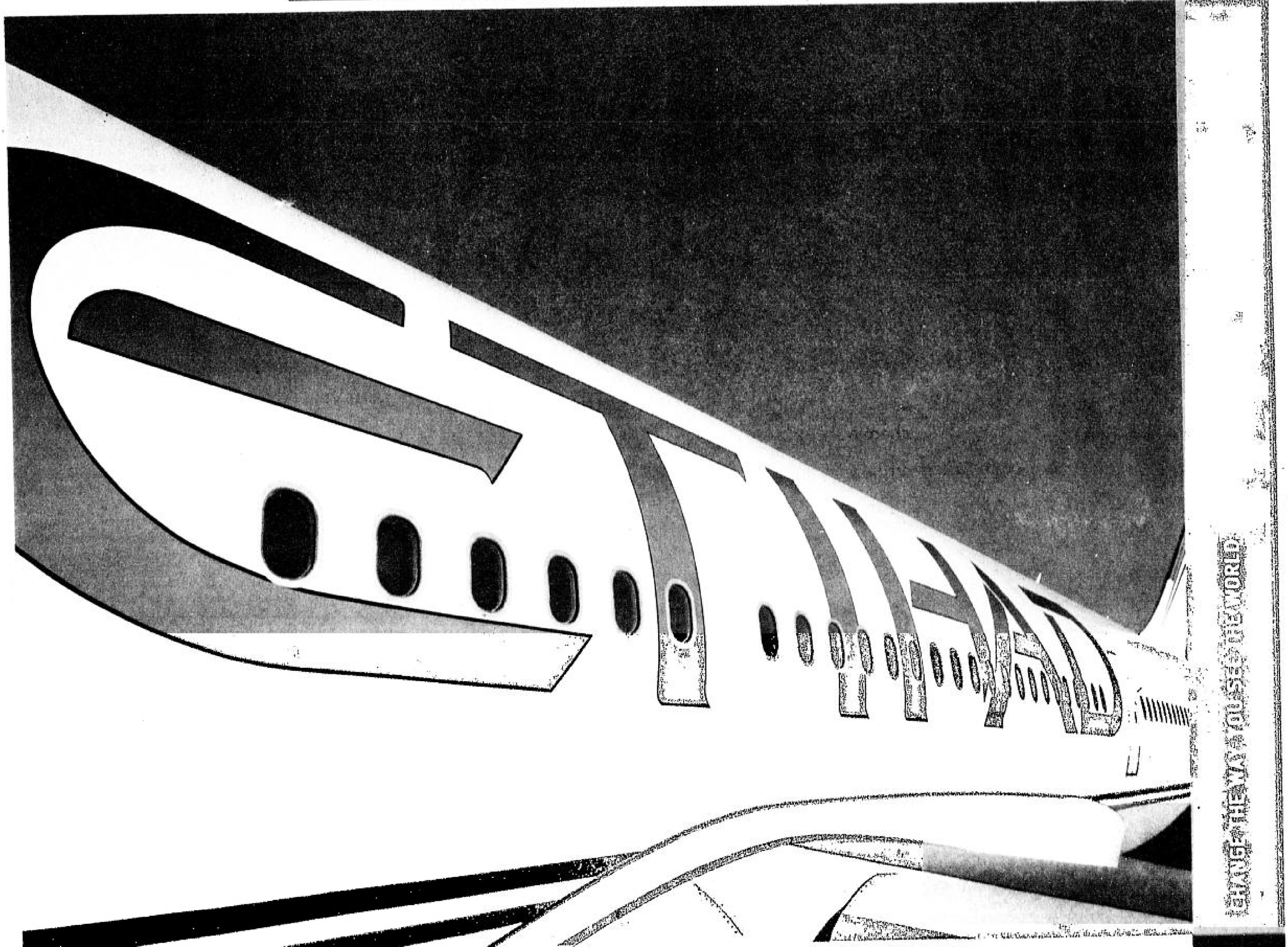

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Jam, the Managing Director of ExplorAsia, is a much-sought-after speaker on competitiveness and strategy. He has been teaching Competitive Intelligence since 1998 and has regularly conducted workshops in Singapore, China, Malaysia, Hongkong, Indonesia, and now in the Philippines.

He obtained a Masters degree in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), is a certified trainer of Harvard University's Program on Negotiation, and is a member of the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP) for which he served as Hong Kong chapter coordinator. He finished his Bachelor of Science degree from the Philippine Military Academy and served as a Philippines Air Force officer and fighter pilot prior to his professional career in business.

Jam was involved in the field of intelligence for more than a decade both as a practitioner and a consultant and has been working on projects in the region and in the U.S., helping companies with their business development and strategy needs in Asia. Among his clients are some of the top global firms. He is one of only two recognized CI trainers in Asia.

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Rebels seek answers to generals' poll links

From page A1

successor to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, who will reach mandatory retirement age of 56 on July 21.

Another officer, Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani (ret.), was cited in the tape as being on the "other side," or on the side of late opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

A military fact-finding body, headed by Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga, was organized last year to look into the issue of military involvement in electoral fraud.

Until today, the result of that investigation has not been made public despite calls from some senators for the release of the findings.

A restive society

Despite the passage of eight months, Ms Arroyo has not given the public a full accounting of her side in the controversy either.

According to the INQUIRER source, the group also wanted Ms Arroyo to address not just the restiveness in the military but "the restiveness of the country, the various sectors of society."

The source, who is a member of the military, asked not to be identified because of his sensitive role in any talks between Ms Arroyo and the military group.

Bigger picture

"The military is just a small picture, a reflection of the bigger picture," the source said.

Ms Arroyo declared a state of national emergency on Feb. 24 in the face of threats by some officers of the Armed Forces to withdraw support from her. They included Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, then chief of the elite First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR), and the Marines led by Col. Ariel Querubin, then commandant of the First Marine Brigade.

Lim and Querubin tipped off Senga of their plans and Senga subsequently placed Lim under custody. Querubin, who took part in a Marines show of force in Fort Bonifacio a week ago, was later also stripped of his command.

Coup rumors have hounded Ms Arroyo since the "Hello Garci" scandal broke in June last year, even triggering an impeachment case against her which her allies in Congress quickly killed.

Politicized military

At one point during the Marine standoff at Bonifacio last week, a burly Marine stepped forward and declared, "The only thing we want is a clean election."

In its coded meaning, it embodied the grievances, the idealism and the adventurism of a politicized military that has kept the Philippines on edge for the past 20 years.

That standoff ended peacefully, and any plans for a coup have been blunted for the moment. But experts on the military say that nothing has changed in the dynamics of plotting coups and that the pattern of destabilization is sure to continue.

Courting military loyalty

Since the foiled coup that set the stage for the 1986 People Power uprising and led to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos, coup attempts and unsettling coup rumors have been part of what might be called the Philippine version of democracy.

Ms Arroyo has struggled to hold the loyalty of the generals, giving eight of them a chance to be chief of staff in the past five years.

A culture of leniency—in which some coup participants have been punished only with a set of push-ups—also helps to ensure that the ranks of the military are permeated with politicized officers. *With a report from the New York Times News Service*

RP, Thailand crises set back democracy in Southeast Asia

From page A1

democracy as she cracks down on opponents suspected of plotting to overthrow her administration.

Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency last week to quash the alleged plot, and charges have been filed against more than a dozen suspects. The emergency, which allowed arrests without warrants and intervention of the military, was lifted on Friday.

Ironically, Ms Arroyo is facing the same array of "people power" and political opposition that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos 20 years ago and Joseph Estrada five years ago.

MS ARROYO LYN RILLON

THAKSIN

Some gains

Since the end of the Cold War, representative government has made some impressive gains in Asia, most notably Taiwan and South Korea. Thailand and the Philippines would have counted too, but given their latest setbacks, the region has fallen on the global democracy charts.

Southeast Asia includes two of the world's five communist states, Vietnam and Laos; one of its longest-running military dictatorships, Burma (Myanmar); and two countries where a single party has held power for decades, Singapore and Malaysia. Cambodia, still recovering from the genocidal Khmer Rouge era, has a democracy of sorts, but it's fragile and messy.

Thailand's media, once among Asia's freest, have been severely curbed under Thaksin, who won the last elections in 2005 by a landslide. In the Philippines, more journalists have been killed since 2000 than in any other country, including Iraq, a report by the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists said last year.

Rocky road

Analysts cite a number of reasons for democracy's rocky road, including corruption, cronyism, massive vote-buying and patronage systems built on powerful leaders rather than ideals.

"Cursed is this Kingdom and its people who pretend to be naive and think that elections in this country are or ever could be free and fair," The Nation, a Thai English-language newspaper, lamented last week.

Rather than Western democratic models, some Southeast Asian leaders have looked to China and Singapore, which put economic advancement ahead of civil rights.

The US focus on fighting terrorism, rather than vigorously promoting human rights and transparent governance, may also have slowed progress.

"If (Southeast Asian leaders) are cornered and questioned they say, 'Ye who live in glass houses can't throw stones. You're doing the same things you allege we're doing and criticizing us for it. Get off our backs.' So it isn't helping the US position," says James Klein, who heads the Thailand and Laos offices of the Asia Foundation, a nonprofit organization that fosters reform.

Surprise performer

The surprise performer is Indonesia. The nation of 210 million shook off 32 years of military dictatorship in 1998 and has steadily built up its democratic structures while weathering the devastating 2004 tsunami and a series of terrorist attacks by Muslim militants.

As for Thailand, not everyone is pessimistic about its long-term prospects.

While describing some of its democratic procedures as "theatrical ceremony," Klein says: "I think we are moving slowly forward. I think Thaksin is a blip in a forward movement."

Heike Loschmann of the Heinrich Boll Foundation, a German group that promotes democracy in the region, says the grass roots are forging increasingly effective ways to be heard.

"People are enduring and pragmatic in their fight," he said. "But there continues to be institutional failure to implement what is on paper." AP

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RP, Russia to ink pact on tourism

EIGHT YEARS AFTER IT WAS FIRST DRAFTED, a tourism accord between the Philippines and Russia will be signed this month to boost amity and travel between the two nations.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Minister Vladimir Stazhalkovsky of the Russia Federation's Federal Agency for Tourism are set to sign the bilateral agreement on March 14 at the Philippine Embassy in Moscow.

The accord, initiated in 1998, seeks to simplify border control and customs measures and provide for the exchange of information, training of guides, organization of tours and the establishment of tourism offices in both countries, among other things.

In a statement, Durano noted that Russia was fast becoming a major source of tourists for the Philippines, with the number of Russian visitors growing 108 percent between 2004 and 2005.

"... Russia is on its way to becoming one of the Philippines' top source markets," Durano said.

The Philippines hosted 334 Russian tourists in Cebu, Bohol and Boracay in January.

The World Tourism Organization has ranked Russian travelers tenth on the list of top spenders.

According to a Department of Tourism statement, the DOT has been working with the Department of Foreign Affairs on a visa-upon-arrival scheme for Russian tourists for the benefit of those coming from places in the Russian Federation where the Philippines does not have consular offices.

The DOT has also been pushing for flights between the Philippines and Russia.

Leila B. Salaverria

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, March 6, 2006
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his Glory. All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so will he do with them, placing the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"The King will say to those on his right: 'Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me into your house. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to see me.'

"Then the good people will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food; thirsty and give you drink, or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?' The King will answer, 'Truly, I say to you: whenever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left: 'Go, cursed people, out of my sight into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you did not give me anything to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me into your house; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

"They, too, will ask: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked or a stranger, sick or in prison, and did not help you?' The King will answer them: 'Truly, I say to you: whatever you did not do for one of these little ones, you did not do for me.'

"And these will go into eternal punishment, but the just to eternal life."

Commentary

We begin our recreations with the words of the Lord to Moses: "Speak to the whole community: Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy." That is what the whole law is about—imitation of God so that we reveal in our society of believers what our God looks like to others. It covers basics: no stealing, lying, swearing falsely, cursing, defrauding, robbing, withholding wages of poor, making it more difficult for others in need; fearing God and judging justly; no slandering and standing by idle when others' lives are at stake, no hating in your heart, and reproving carefully—in a word, love your neighbor as you love your God. The corporal works of mercy in Matthew echo this code.

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Protesters vow to oust Thaksin

BANGKOK—OPPONENTS OF THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN Shinawatra vowed Sunday not to end their protests until he resigns, as police warned of possible violence at demonstrations expected to draw tens of thousands of people.

"We will camp there until we get the answer from Thaksin," Suriyasai Katasila, spokesperson for the anti-Thaksin People's Alliance for Democracy, told AFP.

"If the police don't allow us to stay at the venue, we have the right to disobey their orders," he warned.

Tens of thousands of people were expected to join the protest from 4 p.m., with 5,000 police on hand and another 5,000 on alert.

Political tensions ran high in Bangkok this weekend as Thaksin and his rivals staged dueling mass rallies just two days apart in the same Sanam Luang field near the royal palace.

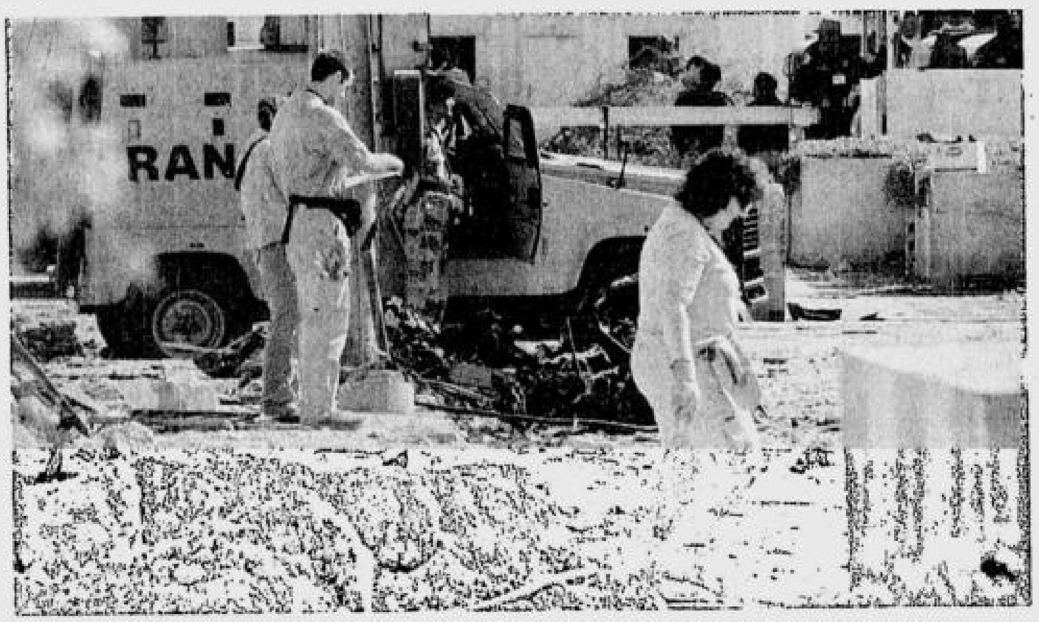
Organizers of the rally Sunday said they planned to march from Sanam Luang to Democracy Monument about one kilometer away, where Suriyasai said they would camp for days if necessary until Thaksin steps down.

"The chance of violence is highly likely and we would prefer for people to stay at home," said national police spokesperson Ajirawid Subarnbhesaj. Police estimated some 50,000 people would attend the rally.

"It is very difficult to prevent violence at a protest where a huge number of people is gathered, especially when they move from one place to another," he said.

Thaksin drew some 150,000 people late Friday as he kicked off his campaign for snap elections on April 2, and on Saturday he called for national unity and urged all protesters to remain peaceful.

Thaksin, who faces allegations of corruption and abuse of power, told his rally that he would refuse to take office if he takes less than half the vote, and vowed constitutional changes and new elections in about one year if he wins. *AFP*


FBI OFFICIALS collect evidence at the site of Thursday's bomb explosion outside the US Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan March 5. An American diplomat and three others were killed. AP

Al-Qaida's Zawahri calls for strikes against West

DUBAI—AL-QAIDA'S DEPUTY leader Ayman al-Zawahri called on Muslims to attack the West in an audio tape posted on the Internet on Saturday, urging similar strikes as those against New York, London and Madrid in recent years.

In a video of his remarks aired by Al Jazeera television, Zawahri also urged the Islamist militant group Hamas not to recognize peace deals signed by the Palestinian Authority with Israel.

He also called on Muslims to boycott countries where satirical cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad had been published, including Denmark, Norway, France and Germany, and said that Muslims should prevent the West from "stealing Muslims' oil."

"(Muslims have to) inflict losses on the crusader West, especially to its economic infrastructure with strikes that would make it bleed for years," said Zawahri, an Egyptian.

"The strikes on New York, Washington, Madrid and London are the best examples," he said.

"We have to prevent the crusader West from stealing the Muslims' oil which is being drained in the biggest robbery in history," he added. It was not clear if the tape was made before the failed al-Qaida attack last month on a major Saudi oil facility.

"Reaching power is not a goal by itself ... and no Palestinian has the right to give away a grain of the soil," said Zawahri in comments directed at Hamas. "The secularists in the Palestinian Authority have sold out Palestine for crumbs ..."

"Giving them legitimacy is against Islam."

Zawahri called on Muslims to give financial support to Islamic fighters, saying they were on the "front line" in defending Islam.

The audio track of the video aired partially by the satellite television channel was posted earlier on a website used by Islamist groups.

Commenting on Zawahri's remarks, Hamas official Osama Hamdan said the group had no intention of recognizing the deals. *Reuters*

China to 'uncompromisingly' oppose Taiwan independence

BEIJING—CHINA WILL "UNCOMpromisingly" oppose any moves towards independence in Taiwan, Premier Wen Jiabao told parliament on Sunday, amid heightened tensions between Beijing and Taipei.

"We will uncompromisingly oppose secessionist activities aimed at Taiwan independence," Wen told the opening day of the National People's Congress annual session.

China views Taiwan as part of its territory to be regained by force if necessary. China and Taiwan split in 1949 after the Nationalist forces lost a civil war to the communists and fled to the island.

Tensions spiked last week after Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian formally scrapped an advisory council and guidelines set up to look at eventual reunification with the mainland.

The council was considered largely symbolic and had been dormant since 2000 but Chen's decision infuriated Beijing, which accused Chen of pushing the region towards disaster.

"Everyone wants cross-strait relations to be peaceful and stable, and develop to the mutual benefit of both sides," Wen said.

"Anyone who tries to reverse this major trend will most certainly fail. It is the common wish of all Chinese people to see the ultimate realization of the great cause of national reunification, a process that no one can stop." *AFP*

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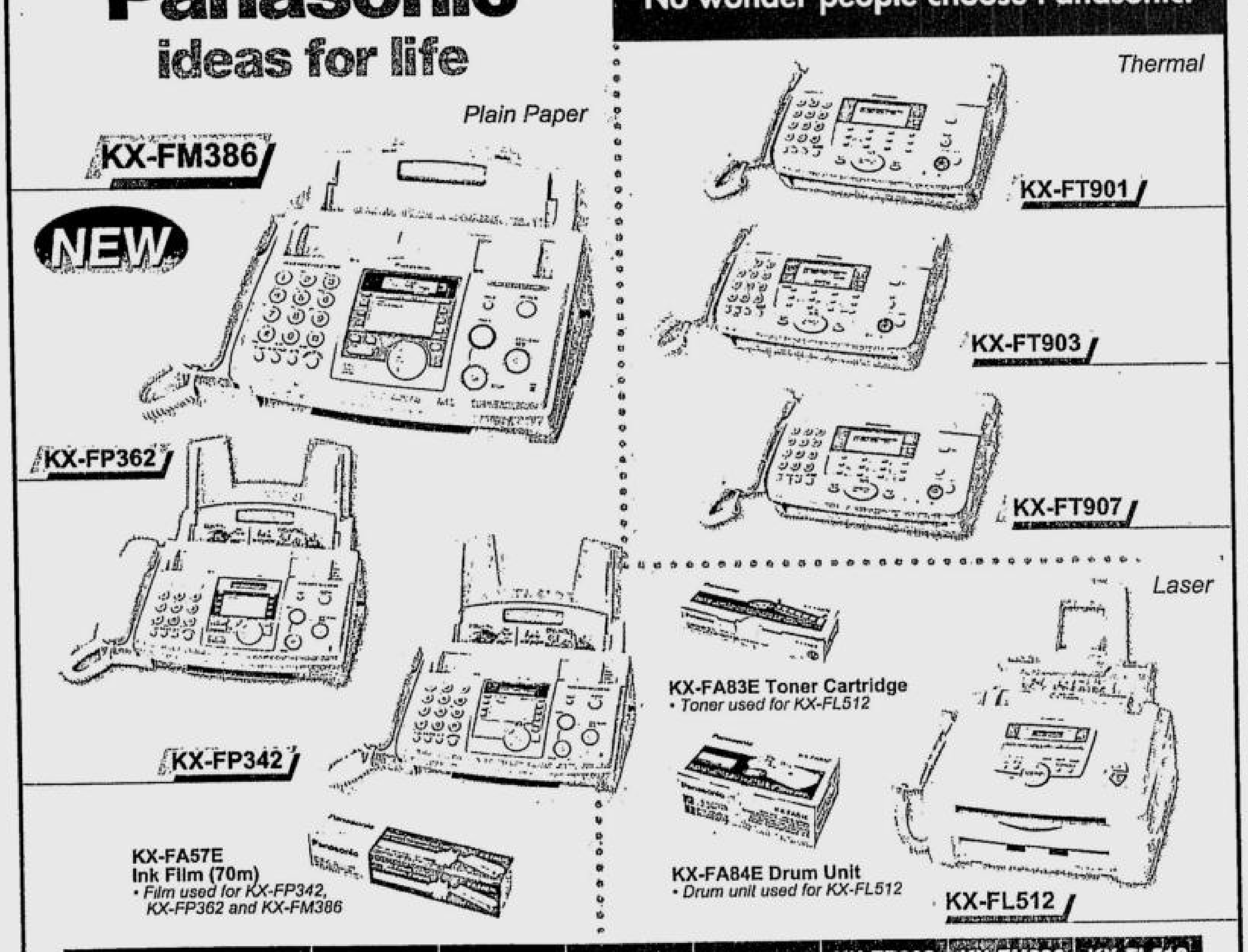
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Hamas rejects recognition of Israel despite pressure

MOSCOW—ISLAMIST MILITANT GROUP Hamas rejected Russian appeals for it to recognize Israel or disband its armed wing, senior leaders of the group said on Saturday.

The Moscow visit is the first to a major foreign power by leaders of Hamas, who are forming a new Palestinian government following a landslide win in the Jan. 25 parliamentary elections.

Hamas is hoping to gain a measure of international standing from the three days of talks, opposed by Israel and the United States.

The Hamas charter calls for the destruction of the Jewish state. Both the United States and the European Union have branded Hamas a terrorist organization. But it is popular among Palestinians for charitable works and has a reputation for freedom from corruption.

Hamas deputy political leader Moussa Abu Marzouk told Reuters in an interview that recognizing Israel would negate all Palestinian rights.

"It means a negation of the Palestinian people and their rights and their property, of Jerusalem and the holy sites, as well as negation of their right of return. Therefore the recognition of Israel is not on the agenda," Abu Marzouk said.

"We believe that Israel has no right to exist", he added later in remarks to an Arab audience. "Hamas will never take such a step."

On Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told a Hamas delegation it must recognize Israel's right to exist and abide by interim peace deals, echoing demands made by the US, the European Union and United Nations.

Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said Saturday he had rejected a bid from Lavrov for Hamas to disband its armed wing and integrate the gunmen into the general Palestinian police force.

"We have made clear to the officials in Russia that the armed wing (of Hamas) will have no role in the internal situation, and will resist the occupation and defend the whole land", Meshaal said.

Abu Marzouk, who is part of the Hamas delegation in Moscow, blasted previous Palestinian accords with Israel and said they did not define the Jewish state's borders.

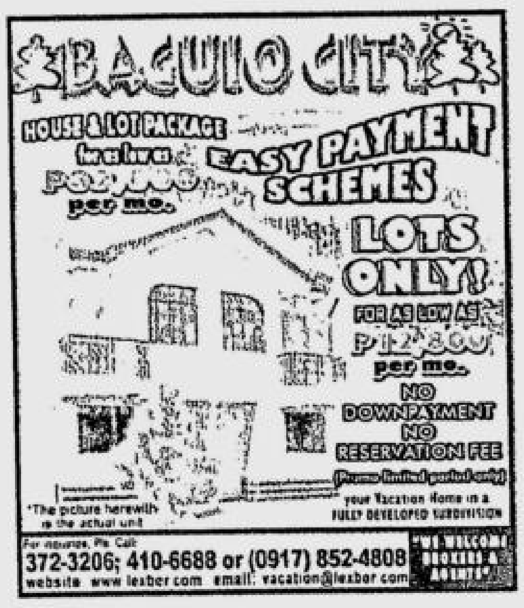
"I gave the Russian officials a white sheet and I asked them to draw me a map of the Israel they want me to recognize and nobody was able to draw the map," he said.

"Therefore how would you want me to recognize something that is so dangerous to the future of the Palestinian people."

Hamas is in the middle of forming a government and expects to name a cabinet within weeks.

Israel says it will not negotiate with a government led by Hamas, which has carried out nearly 60 suicide bombings against Israelis since a Palestinian uprising erupted in 2000. Hamas has said talks with Israel would be a waste of time.

Reuters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[1] Walzem, R.L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German, Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:353, 2002. [2] [illegible] A. Cancer Res 1994;54(8):1969-1975.

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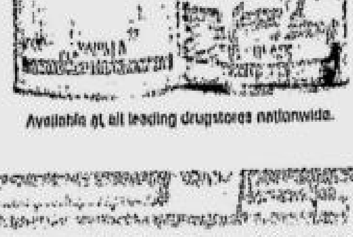

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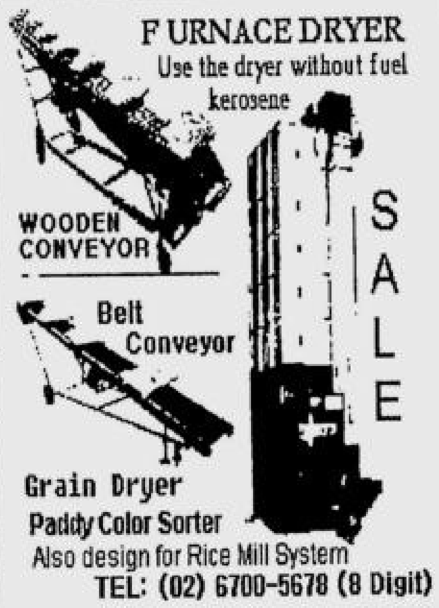

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5D	HONGKONG Dep: Mar 26 / April 2, 9, 16, 21 & 30	$298up
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5D	BEIJING Dep: April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	$299up
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Nearly 50 killed in Pakistan clashes

MIRANSHAH, Pakistan—Nearly 50 people were killed in fierce fighting which erupted between pro-Taliban Islamist militants and Pakistani security forces in a tribal region near the Afghan border on Saturday, the military said.

The fighting broke out when militants seized one government building and attacked others in Miranshah, the main town in the North Waziristan region. The violence spread to the nearby town of Mir Ali, officials said.

"According to our reports 25 militants were killed in Miranshah and 21 in Mir Ali," said military spokesperson Major Gen. Shaukat Sultan.

He said three soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in the violence which erupted as US President George W. Bush was visiting Pakistan for talks with President Pervez Musharraf on the war on terrorism.

The violence underlined the problems Musharraf faces in the semi-autonomous, conservative, ethnic Pashtun tribal area.

Pashtuns inhabit both sides of the border with Afghanistan and many people support the Taliban, most of whose leaders and rank-and-file are Pashtun. *Reuters*

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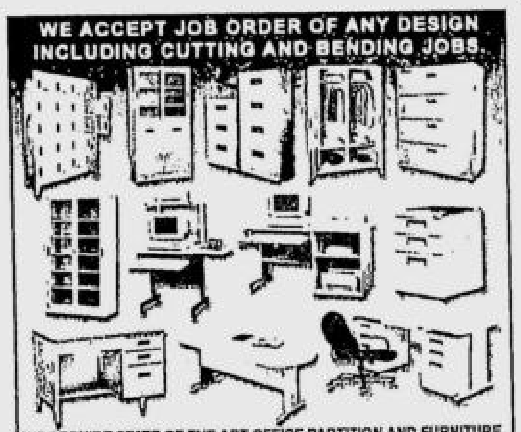

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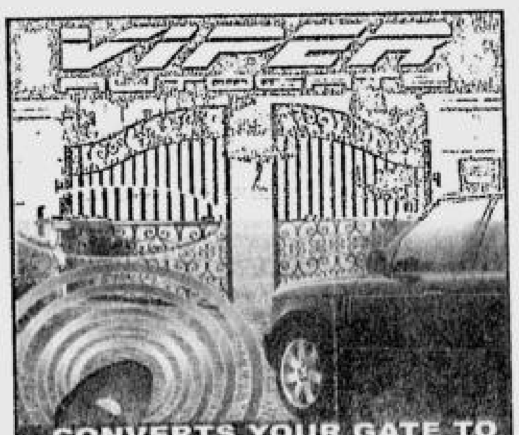

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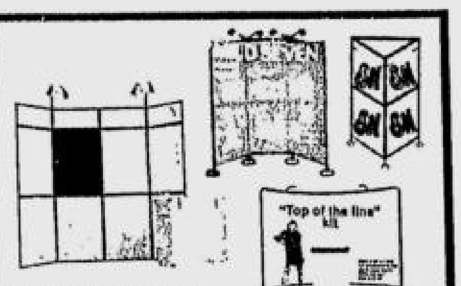

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We would especially like to thank **Ret. Gen. Rosalio Magsino, Police Chief Supt. Gen. Alejandro C. Lapinid, Police Supt. Col. Rosueto Ricaforte and Deputy Group Director Maj. Rommel Batanga,** without whose help this would not have been possible.

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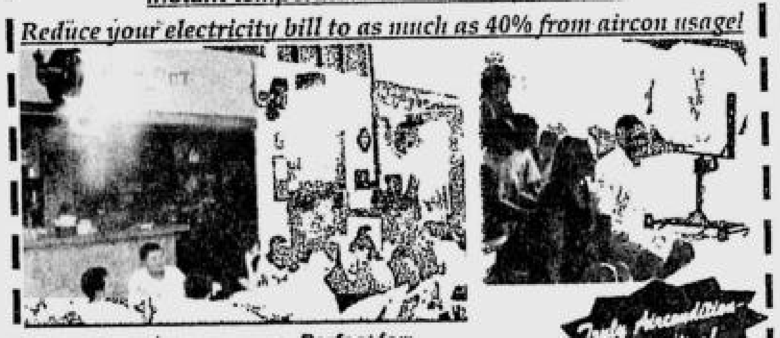

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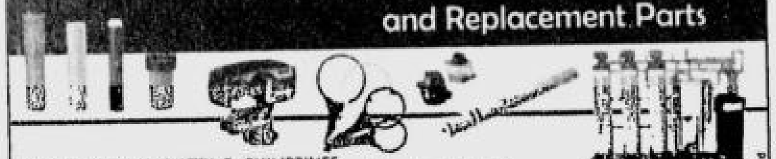

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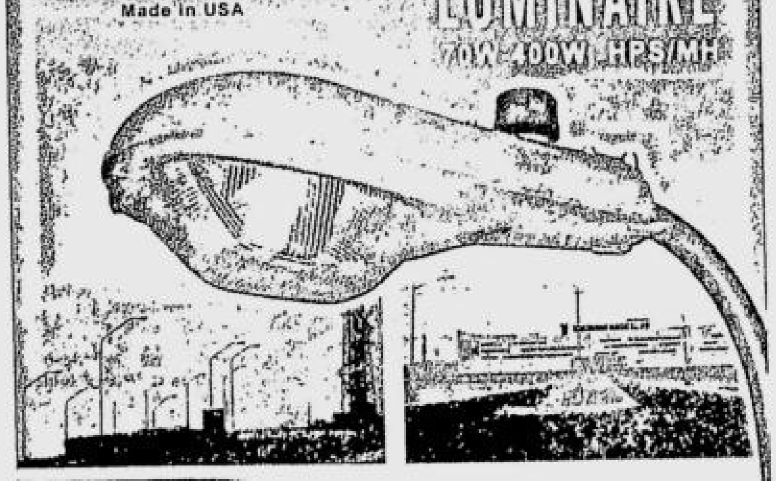

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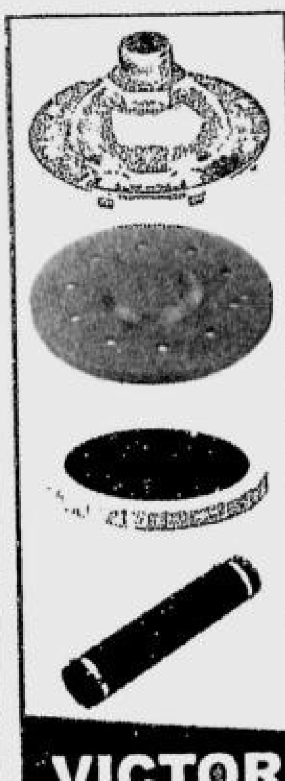

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EU rejects Iranian proposal on nuclear crisis

VIENNA—DURING CRISIS TALKS WITH EU powers over its nuclear activities, Iran offered a two-year moratorium on industrial-scale nuclear fuel enrichment while continuing its nuclear research, diplomats said.

But EU diplomats rejected the offer saying it would not allay concerns that Tehran secretly wants to build atomic bombs.

One European diplomat familiar with the talks said the EU had demanded up to a 10-year moratorium, which Iran rejected.

"Larijani's offer was no basis for a compromise," one diplomat said, referring to the chief Iranian negotiator, Ali Larijani. "The offer made no sense to us."

The failure of Friday's Vienna encounter between Iran and foreign ministers and diplomats from Germany, France and Britain paves the way for possible UN Security Council action against Iran after the UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, meets next week.

EU leaders said Larijani offered nothing that could underpin a solution to the crisis, but that he displayed a more conciliatory, constructive tone than the defiance of the past.

Larijani, in an interview with Austrian newspaper Kurier due to be published on Sunday, brushed aside the failure of the talks with the Europeans, and indicated that ultimately what mattered was how the United States negotiated with Iran.

He also criticized Washington, saying it had shown double standards by signing trade deals with nuclear power India in recent days, while refusing to treat with Iran.

"One land builds atomic bombs and the USA signs contracts with it, and the other wants nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Anarchy reigns in international law," Larijani said.

In their talks, EU3 diplomats said Larijani offered the two-year moratorium on efforts to establish commercial-scale production of enriched uranium, the fuel for civilian nuclear power reactors or, if purified to a high level, weapons.

He further said Iran would again permit short-notice inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency that it barred in retaliation for a Feb. 4 vote of the IAEA's governing board to report Tehran to the Security Council.

An Iranian diplomat close to the talks said there was "a high possibility to reach an agreement with the EU3" based on Larijani's overture, three days before the IAEA board convenes in a likely precursor to Security Council involvement.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking on a trip to Pakistan, said that even if the IAEA reported Iran to the Security Council, sanctions against the Islamic Republic were unlikely to be the first step in dealing with the crisis.

In their talks, EU diplomats noted that Iran planned to start installing 3,000 centrifuges later this year.

About 1,500 centrifuges running optimally and non-stop for a year could yield enough highly enriched uranium for an atomic bomb, nuclear scientists say.

"Their insistence on R&D seems to encompass the 3,000 centrifuges. So this was no basis for compromise as far as we could see," said one EU3 diplomat. *Reuters*

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Oscars organizers urged to disqualify 'Paradise Now'

HOLLYWOOD—SOME 36,000 PEOPLE HAVE petitioned Oscars organizers to urgently disqualify the Palestinian entry for Sunday's Academy Awards, "Paradise Now," claiming it glorifies suicide bombers.

An Arab-American peace activist delivered the petition to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences late Friday, 48 hours before the show at which Hany Abu-Assad's film could win the Oscar for best foreign language film.

"Giving an Oscar nomination to this film glorifies inexcusable actions," said peace activist Nonie Darwish. "It may even encourage future homicide bombings."

The movie, one of five contenders for the foreign film Oscar, tells the story of two childhood friends who volunteer for a double suicide bombing in Tel-Aviv and tries to examine their motivations.

"Paradise Now," which won the Golden Globe award for best foreign-language film in January, does not deserve its Oscar nomination because it legitimizes suicide bombings, Darwish maintained.

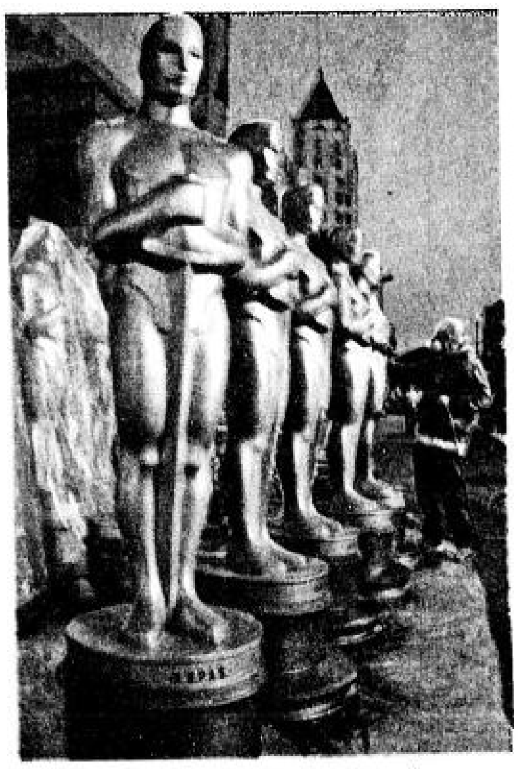
Oscars officials confirmed they had received the petition but said the film would not be withdrawn from consideration at Hollywood's biggest night, weighted this year with a battery of serious politically themed movies.

The petition drive was organized by Yossi Zur, whose 16-year-old son, Asaf, died in a suicide bus bombing in Israel on March 5, 2003, exactly three years ahead of Sunday's 78th Academy Awards show.

Darwish said she did not oppose movie-goers seeing the film or the director's right to make it, but insisted that awarding the movie an Oscar would send the wrong message to the volatile and strife-torn Middle East.

"It will say that here is two guys who did terrorism ... and the movie won an Academy Award," Darwish said.

"Paradise Now's" Jan. 31 nomination for best foreign film immediately sparked protests both in Israel and in the United States, drawing fire also for the Academy's decision to tag the movie's origin as "Palestine."



SCENIC artist Rick Roberts paints giant Oscar statues on the red carpet outside the Kodak Theater during preparations for the 78th Annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles, March 4. AP

Reports have said that the Israeli government quietly lobbied the Academy to have it represent the Palestinian Authority, but Oscar officials denied coming under any pressure from either Israel or any Jewish group.

However, the Academy did mull whether to recategorize the disputed movie as coming from the "Palestinian Territories" or some other tag. *AFP*

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Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman earn pre-Oscars 'dishonors'

LOS ANGELES—SUPERSTAR TOM CRUISE, his fiancee Katie Holmes and his ex-wife Nicole Kidman won dishonor Saturday at the annual Golden Razzie awards, an Oscars spoof held a day ahead of the big awards.

Tom Cruise and his pregnant paramour scooped the lowest award in the Razzies newest category, Most Tiresome Tabloid Targets of 2005, but they had to share their shame with Oprah Winfrey's couch, the Eiffel Tower and "Tom's Baby."

Cruise, 43, famously announced he was in love with Holmes by jumping on talk show queen Winfrey's sofa during a broadcast last year, Cruise then proposed to Holmes, 26, atop Paris' Eiffel Tower in June and announced they were expecting in October, all amid a massive glare of tabloid publicity.

Razzie founder John Wilson said the formerly ultra-private Cruise deserved the award because he made a spectacle of himself when he decided to "suddenly propose in front of reporters on the Eiffel Tower and jump up and down like the monkey in "Curious George" on Oprah Winfrey's couch."

Cruise's Oscar-winning ex, Kidman, shared the Razzie award for the worst screen couple of 2005 with Will Ferrell for their movie version of the 1960s television show "Bewitched."

"Top Gun" and "Mission Impossible" star Cruise, separated from Kidman, 38, in 2001 after 10 years of marriage, later divorced her and began dating Holmes after at least one other high-profile romance in April last year.

In the most tiresome celebrity category, Cruise and Holmes beat "The Simpsons"—singing sisters Ashlee, Jessica and Jessica's estranged husband Nick Lachey; new mom Britney Spears; and hotel heiress Paris Hilton in the category.

The couple dubbed "TomKat" reigned over a year marked by a string of tired remakes and movie sequels led by the comedy adventure "Son of the Mask," which went to Saturday's show armed with eight nominations.

The gross out romantic comedy "Dirty Love," written by and starring former Playboy Playmate Jenny McCarthy, took home the most gold spray-painted statuettes with three at the 26th annual Razzie Awards held in Hollywood.

The blonde bombshell McCarthy won for worst actress and worst screenplay, while her former husband, John Asher, took home worst director dishonors at the mock movie awards.

US comic actor Rob Schneider was disgraced with the award for the worst performance by an actor last year for his slapstick feature "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo," while heart-throb Hayden Christensen won worst supporting actor for his role in "Star Wars Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith."

Hilton won for worst supporting actress for her role in the camp horror flick "House of Wax," while "Son of the Mask," an ill-thought sequel to Jim Carrey's 1994 hit minus the star, was chosen worst remake or sequel.

But none of the shamed stars took the lead from last year's winner Halle Berry and showed up at the ceremony to collect their gold spray painted plastic raspberries, which organizers say are worth as much as $4.97. *AFP*

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Killing Rizal again

EDITORIAL

IN DEFENDING ITS INVASION OF PRESS FREEDOM, the Arroyo administration is battling the legacy of Jose Rizal and our other founding fathers. It is for this reason why we urge the Supreme Court, not only to continue with the oral arguments and the deliberations on the constitutionality of Proclamation 1017, but to decide, unequivocally, against it. The justices of the high court are now engaged in a dialogue with the heroes who fought for our freedom and shaped our nation.

We do not know if President Macapagal-Arroyo and her closest advisers realize it, but in sending policemen to The Daily Tribune newsroom, deploying troops to keep watch over TV networks, and warning journalists who may prove critical of the administration, they are trampling on the memory of Rizal and other anti-colonial democrats who fought for our liberties.

As constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas, S.J. writes in his much-consulted casebook: Freedom of expression "was one of the burning issues during the Filipino campaign against Spain, first, in the writings of the Filipino propagandists, and, finally, in the armed revolt against the mother country."

That "whereas" clause in Proclamation 1017, which accuses the media of recklessly magnifying the claims of alleged conspirators against the State, threatens to undo Rizal's work, and those of the other democrats who have followed him. It threatens to turn criticism reflected in media into proof of sedition. It threatens to turn the necessarily adversarial nature of media, with their constitutionally defined role, into evidence of rebellion. It threatens to turn media's very openness and accessibility to everyone in the public square with an opinion or a grievance into a public challenge against the government.

The Supreme Court must remind the Arroyo administration, gently but confidently and firmly, not to kill Rizal all over again.

We trust that the high court will reject the "new argument" offered by Presidential Legal Counsel Ed Nachura; to wit, that the cases against Proclamation 1017 must be dismissed because they have become moot and academic with the lifting of the state of national emergency.

As the high court has proven before, the mere lifting of a controversial act cannot by itself bar the Supreme Court from passing judgment on it.

Even more important, we trust that the justices realize that any so-called chilling effect, which is what the media fear most, cannot be so easily switched off, and that their role as judges may be precisely to raise the temperature of the body politic.

The post-1017 pronouncements of the justice secretary himself, that at least seven more journalists are under close government watch because of possibly seditious commentary or reportage, prove that the chilling effect is a continuing concern.

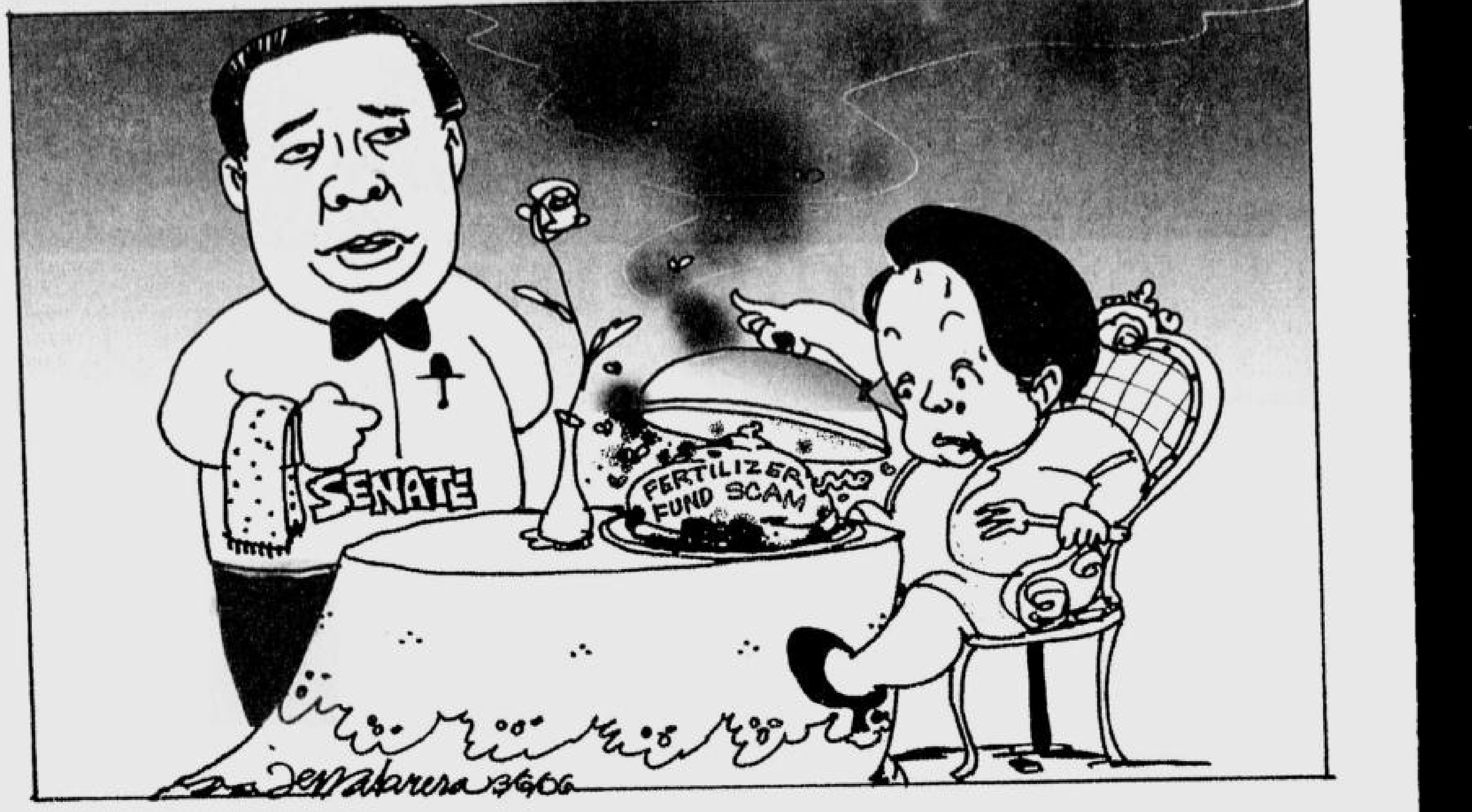
For this and similar reasons, the high court must accept the responsibility to render judgment on the issue.

We also trust that while the Supreme Court is no trier of facts, it is not blind to reality. The circumstances behind the implementation of Proclamation 1017 offer clear evidence of grave abuse of discretion: the arrest of Edsa marchers on Feb., 24, ostensibly on the strength of a presidential document the arresting officers had not even seen; the decision of the police to send government agents into the newsroom, something Palace officials did not know about but defended after the fact; and so on.

The Arroyo administration hides behind the fiction of political questions, but its understanding is based on pre-1987 jurisprudence. Under the 1987 Constitution, the political question has been redefined, and the Supreme Court has been empowered with the duty "to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government."

For this and similar reasons, the high court must judge Proclamation 1017 as unconstitutional, and its pernicious effects on the practice of journalism and the exercise of the freedom of expression unconscionable.

The Supreme Court must come to the defense of the State, by proclaiming yet again that free speech and a free press form part of the arsenal of democracy.



SC shouldn't cop out on PP 1017

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TOMORROW, THE SUPREME COURT WILL hear oral arguments on a number of petitions to declare unconstitutional Proclamation 1017, which declared "a state of national emergency." 1017 is so transparently unconstitutional, an abuse of authority, the tribunal is widely expected to strike it down. Which is the reason, according to observers, that the President quickly lifted it—to make the case in the high court moot and academic and, therefore, prevent the justices from issuing a decision, thus saving her from the humiliation of being rebuffed by the tribunal. (Another theory is that she was given a hint by US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill, who visited her recently, that the United States does not look kindly on Proclamation 1017.)

The justices—most of whom are appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo—may do just that: declare the case "moot and academic" (the proclamation being questioned by the petitioners have already been lifted) and dismiss it. That would be a cop-out. People would suspect that the Supreme Court dodged the issue—as it is wont to do in difficult cases—so as not to embarrass the President.

People would think that the justices did it on their own, out of gratitude to the President, or under pressure from Malacañang. Which would be very bad for the image of the high court, which is supposed to be an independent body.

I agree with those who believe that the Supreme Court should still decide on the issue, even if 1017 has already been lifted. The Court should not run away from its responsibility. It should guide the government and the people on what is the right thing to do should the same situation arise again in the future.

Without the Court's pronouncements, what is to prevent this administration from imposing again a similar proclamation? Already, the Department of Justice has warned media that 1017 would be reimposed if they "don't behave" (translation: don't criticize the government or else ...). In short, the threats and harassment spawned by 1017 are still there and, in fact, being brandished by the police and the DOJ.

"A lot of important issues will be left hanging—the legality of warrantless arrests, the raid on The Daily Tribune, the attempt to arrest party-list representatives—if the court does not rule on them," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

Ibarra Gutierrez III of the Institute of Human Rights said that "even if...the proclamation has already been lifted, we would like to insist that the Supreme Court make a ruling to prevent (future abuse by the government)."

Indeed, there are precedents wherein the tribunal still ruled on important issues even when the cases had become moot and academic—to prevent a repeat of the same situation in the future.

We are confident that the Supreme Court will not shirk its duty and responsibility.

* * *

Right now, even when 1017 has already been lifted, the threats and harassment to media and journalists continue. The police guards at The Daily Tribune have been pulled out, but inciting to sedition charges have been filed against its publisher and two of its columnists. The DOJ warned that the administration will not hesitate to reimpose 1017 if media "do not behave" (translation: stop airing criticisms and negative news against the government or else...).

The police (which know next to nothing about the business of journalism) even have the temerity to announce that they will issue "guidelines" to media. And when asked how they can formulate the guidelines when they know nothing about media work, the police replied that the rules would be similar to those of the Journalists' Code of Ethics, and the guidelines issued by the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP). But if the media already have these guidelines, what's the use of issuing similar ones?

* * *

INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE: The Philippine oil industry is talking about an undersecretary purportedly behind the idea of creating a "super body" with an arrogant sounding name that would practically control one of the most strategic industries in the country. This shadow agency would have been headed by a "presidential assistant" (the undersecretary was hoping to be the one appointed by Malacañang to that position) who could order around existing line agencies, attached bureaus and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs). In effect, another layer in the government's bloated bureaucracy. Fortunately, this idea was shelved after strong objections from stakeholders, economists and legislators.

The talk is that this "upstart" continues to jockey for position and usurp his boss' authority. Recently, he was seen on television making sweeping pronouncements, forcing his boss to correct the misimpression that he had made. This undersecretary is also a known hothead; he crossed swords with his superior in the other agency he served a few years back.

Guidelines

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RAUL GONZALEZ SAYS THAT EVEN AFTER 1017 is lifted, media will still have to comply with certain guidelines concerning coverage. What arrant nonsense. Someone should remind him that the origin of our current mess is that his boss couldn't follow a few simple guidelines concerning elections.

What are those guidelines? First, do not lie. If you say you're not going to run, whether on the grave of Jose Rizal or not, you do not run. Second, do not cheat. You do not raid the public treasury, particularly in the form of funds for fertilizer and funds from Pagcor and the PCSO, which are meant to alleviate the plight of farmers and poor folk, to line the highways with billboards displaying your grinning face and proclaiming the things you've done for farmers and poor folk. Third, do not steal. You do not talk to the most corrupt Comelec official ever to walk on two legs and demand to win over the most popular candidate by a million votes. And go on to pass that off as an impropriety or oversight.

These are the simplest guidelines in the world. Hell, a cretin would understand them.

GMA herself said before she lifted the oppression, also called 1017, that it would depend on whether she was satisfied that the military and police had the country under control. What arrant nonsense too. The country does not exist at her sufferance, she exists at the country's sufferance. And "sufferance" captures the feeling completely.

If lifting 1017 had truly depended on her being satisfied that the military and police had things under control, she would never have lifted 1017. It is not merely that she will never be satisfied until she rules absolutely and permanently. It is also that her military and police will never have this country under control. This country has shown repeatedly it does not like oppression, also called martial law. In fact, this country has repeatedly shown it does not like tyrants, also called dictators.

When GMA lifted 1017 last Friday, I had a feeling of déjà vu. Her aura on TV was the same one Marcos exuded in the past. Then, every time Marcos agreed to liberalize or lift an oppressive law, he actually expected the public to be thankful. It was as if he was doing the country a favor, deigning to heed public clamor. Well, I am not thankful. The fact that GMA declared de facto martial law, however temporarily in the guise of emergency rule; the fact that she still means to effect it in the form of "guidelines" to media; and the fact that the prospect of martial law continues to dangle over our heads (Marcos suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus after the 1971 bombing of Plaza Miranda as a trial balloon—it became the prelude to full-blown martial law a year later); these are oppressions by, in and of themselves.

GMA did not lift 1017 out of the goodness of her heart, she lifted it out of the fury in the citizens' minds. While at this, I am deeply glad this country did not give in to more indifference and apathy but fought back from the start. Media, in particular, have to be commended here. They stood their ground.

The lifting of 1017 is not something to be thankful for, the declaration of 1017 is something to be furious about. I remember one phrase from Cory's time when she was fighting the very real coups that came her way: "defending democracy by the ways of democracy." That is an awe-inspiring line, and one that shows up the folly of GMA's tack, if not indeed the blight of her existence. There is no other way to defend democracy except by the ways of democracy. You cannot defend democracy by the ways of dictatorship. You can only defend dictatorship by the ways of dictatorship.

That was how Cory stopped the coups, by defending democracy by the ways of democracy. By meeting the threat against democracy not by denying democracy but by affirming democracy. Contrary to rumor, democracy is not the weakest system in the world and dictatorship the strongest one. It's the other way around. Democracy is the strongest system in the world and dictatorship the weakest one. That is so because of one thing: Democracy has the mandate of the people, it has the support of the people, and in the end it can count on the people to defend it. Dictatorship has the resolve only of a junta, it has the support only of the greedy and the sycophantic, and in the end it can only count on guns and bullets to prop it up.

The part about the people being counted upon to defend democracy when it is threatened is particularly telling. The people did rise to defend the Cory administration, whatever its faults and infirmities, when military mutineers rose to topple it. Media came together and published a pooled editorial in 1989 condemning the December coup. Civil society, the Church, the business community, ordinary folk vowed to people-power all over again to protect the gains of Edsa. As threats go, you cannot find a greater threat to government than the coups Cory faced. She stopped them by trusting the people to stop them. The coups did stop after 1989, totally, absolutely, and for a while at least until GMA stoked their fires all over again, seemingly permanently.

That is the only way to stop a coup. Or at least that is the only way to stop a coup and save democracy. You declare martial law to stop a coup—or a "withdrawal of support," as Generoso Senga continues to call Danilo Lim's action—you are saying you distrust the people, you are saying they will never lift a finger to defend you. You obliterate the rights of the people to stop a coup, you are not protecting the people from their enemies, you are protecting yourself from the people.

In this country, patriotism is not the last refuge of scoundrels. Dictatorship is.

Playing games with the Court

"[A] declaration of a state of rebellion [or emergency] is an utter superfluity . . . . This Court finds that such a declaration is devoid of any legal significance. For all legal intents, the declaration is deemed not written."—**Sanlakas v Executive Secretary (2004)**

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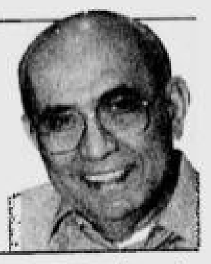

BUT WHAT HAVE THE MINIONS OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, by authority of President Arroyo, been perpetrating?

Proclamation No. 1017 is not the first time that President Arroyo has toyed with the most benign of the commander-in-chief powers. We know that as commander in chief, the President has the power to impose martial law or suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. These two powers have serious implications on human rights.

The third commander-in-chief power, however, is more easily resorted to, and resort to it is generally beyond the power of review by the Supreme Court. The Constitution simply says: when it becomes necessary, she may call on the Armed Forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence or rebellion. The Court recognizes that she is the best judge of whether it has become necessary.

She resorted to it in 2001 and again in 2003, and now once again by Proclamation 1017. Let us review the first two events.

On May 1, 2001, President Arroyo, faced by an "angry and violent mob armed with explosives, firearms, bladed weapons, clubs, stones and other deadly weapons" attempting to break into Malacañang, issued Proclamation No. 38 declaring that there was a "state of rebellion" in the National Capital Region. She thereafter issued General Order No. 1 directing the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to suppress the rebellion. Warrantless arrests of several alleged leaders followed.

Petitions were brought before the Supreme Court challenging the validity of the proclamation and of the warrantless arrests. But before the Court could decide on the case, President Arroyo lifted the declaration of the state of rebellion. Hence, the issue of the validity of the proclamation became "moot" and the Court did not touch it. Ms Arroyo, therefore, was able to sidestep the challenge to her proclamation. As to arrests, the Supreme Court said they could only be carried out in accordance with the Rules of Court.

It happened again in 2003. In the wake of the Oakwood incident, President Arroyo issued on July 27, 2003 Proclamation No. 427 declaring a state of rebellion and calling out the Armed Forces to suppress it. Petitions were filed challenging the validity of the proclamation. But again before the Court could resolve the petitions, President Arroyo lifted the proclamation of a state of rebellion.

This time, however, in spite of the fact that the issue of the validity of the proclamation had become "moot," the Court insisted on making some clarificatory pronouncements. The Court said:

"To prevent similar questions from reemerging, we seize this opportunity to finally lay to rest the validity of the declaration of a state of rebellion in the exercise of the President's calling out power, the mootness of the petitions notwithstanding.

". . . . [In] calling out the armed forces, a declaration of a state of rebellion is an utter superfluity. At most, it only gives notice to the nation that such a state exists and that the armed forces may be called to prevent or suppress it .... This Court finds that such a declaration is devoid of any legal significance. For all legal intents, the declaration is deemed not written.

"Should there be any 'confusion' generated by the issuance of Proclamation No. 427 and General Order No. 4, we clarify that .... the mere declaration of a state of rebellion cannot diminish or violate constitutionally protected rights. Indeed, if a state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution or automatically suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, then it is with more reason that a simple declaration of a state of rebellion could not bring about these conditions ....

"For the same reasons, apprehensions that the military and police authorities may resort to warrantless arrests are likewise unfounded. In Lacson vs. Perez, supra, majority of the Court held that '[i]n quelling or suppressing the rebellion, the authorities may only resort to warrantless arrests of persons suspected of rebellion, as provided under Section 5, Rule 113 of the Rules of Court, if the circumstances so warrant. The warrantless arrest feared by petitioners is, thus, not based on the declaration of a state of rebellion.' In other words, a person may be subjected to a warrantless arrest for the crime of rebellion whether or not the President has declared a state of rebellion, so long as the requisites for a valid warrantless arrest are present."

These two decisions clarify the meaning and the legal consequences of a declaration of a "state of rebellion." Such declaration adds no new powers. Our President, zealous guardian that she is of the "rule of law," accepts that clarification. But, desiring to assume powers which a declaration of a state of rebellion does not give, she avoided declaring a "state of rebellion." Instead, she proclaimed "a state of national emergency" to let her minions go their merry way. Beautiful!

Who was it who said that a thorn by any other name is just as sharp?

Diminishing and diminished icons

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

TO JOIN OR NOT TO JOIN. THE ANTI-GMA RALlies, that is. Judging from what Manila media feed the rest of the country, that dilemma seems to reflect the polarization of a nation in crisis. If one is not with the street ralliers, then he or she is pro-GMA. But in between the two opposing sides supposedly lie the "silent majority" and the "fence-sitters."

Indeed, the question must be asked why, until now, no bandwagon capable of moving heaven and earth is building up to unseat Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. We may, however, be getting nearer and nearer to the answer.

Amid all the din calling for the President's resignation, there is one central principle in our body politic—and this now appears to be the decisive factor—that is being overlooked: not everything that takes place in Manila is equally shared by the rest of the country. No rallies with the magnitude of those erupting in Manila are taking place in most of our cities, notwithstanding the voices of dissent that can also be heard there. What explains the seeming "fence-sitting"?

I think that the Filipino's political maturity is coming of age. I think the so-called silent majority is not pro-GMA; neither is it fence-sitting. I think the silent majority is in fact making a statement.

With all the muckraking in the past eight months, I think many are convinced that GMA is not necessarily the "best president" for us at this time; but they also see that neither could be those who are calling for her resignation.

And I do not think people will march in protest only when the "right leader" comes. Theirs, I think, is not silence. Even now, I think they are already making a loud statement—they are, in fact, rejecting the present field of alternative personalities.

It has been said that the Filipino knows exactly what he or she does not like. If only because of that, I think that GMA has much to thank all her detractors. They are only proving to be her best promoters. One only has to see, as the INQUIRER editorial said it aptly the week just passed, Imee Marcos or Cory Aquino effectively defang a potential People Power by rushing to an explosive situation, thus triggering a retreat of warm bodies from their dreamed-up popular uprising.

I have never seen a more inane scene: Cory Aquino in the same cause with Imee Marcos, dashing to the aid of Col. Ariel Querubin, one of those who had plotted against her while she was still President of the Republic; and mumbling along the way (as I heard her say it) that she was going to Fort Bonifacio "to pray." What did she pray for? Before she could make up an alibi, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales rebuffed her by saying that there are many places, outside Fort Bonifacio, where she can pray. *Aray!*

Sadly, the icon of People Power seems to have lost her appeal, the Nobel Peace Prize nominee is now a pathetic, diminishing icon—seemingly adept at dishonesty which is a mark of traditional and transactional politicians. And the people see this.

Hyatt 10's constant trailing of her is another of her banes. How can people believe in a group named after a posh hotel only the elite can afford? The Black and White Movement never caught fire. In truth, society does not operate along the outmoded bipolarity model, for there are many more colors (read: voices) in between the black and the white, aside from the gray. This is a world of plurality. And people know that.

If GMA appears to be the quintessential purveyor of transactional politics, people have not forgotten that the Hyatt 10 initially tried to rescue themselves from ignominy by negotiating with Vice President Noli de Castro for positions in his "future" Cabinet, even before they announced their breakaway from GMA. And the people saw that. Dinky Soliman did not need to shed copious tears.

Neither will there be sympathies for the "aging but fighting" Tito Guingona. Ask the people of northern Mindanao, where the Guingonas are currently running a family dynasty in a place they have long abandoned for glitzy Manila. If there is talk that GMA cheated her way to the presidency, there is as much talk of the Guingonas having bought their way to their current elective positions. Even before son TG set his sights on the second congressional district of Bukidnon (where he had never lived in his entire life), there was talk in that province that he was sponsoring projects and making donations using the resources of a national office.

I do not say the rumors are true. I am saying that suspected cheaters cannot themselves lead a movement organized to oust a sitting President, because the latter is suspected of cheating.

* * *

Now it can be told. The Estradas had P8 million in cold cash to give to "charity." That is transactional politics for you, in a political economy of diminished icons.

We just blew the opportunity for another People Power. GMA is now laughing her way to 2010.

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Atienza's rump

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE PRESIDENTIAL PUPPET SHOW BEGAN AS a seminar and ended up with a mock coronation. It was supposedly a gathering to discuss something—or matters—important enough to merit a clarificatory memo from the Department of Interior and Local Government. Though an unofficial activity (because it is party-sponsored), government officials belonging to the Liberal Party were welcome to attend, at public expense. Questioned on his memo, Undersecretary Marius Corpus replied, "So what? There's nothing wrong with that." After all, as an old-time Liberal rebel once put it, "What are we in power for?" What are the modern-day Liberal rebel puppets in power for, indeed?

The *somos* crowd, it seems, thought that after all the effort made to hold a seminar, something spicier was in order. And so on Wednesday, they proceeded to send a text. Oddly enough, someone forwarded it to me, although I'm not an LP member. It read, "Bcoz Mar Roxas has no balls, it is time to consider new LP leaders tomorrow: Mike Defensor, LP pres; Miles Roces, exec VP; Kim Atienza, VP NCR; Jon Malaya, VP Sectors; Dan Suarez, tres [treasurer]; Eli Quinto, secretary general. *Sulong pagbabago, sulong* Liberal. Pls. pass—Kathy S., Kalipi." (There was, apparently, something somewhat reckless about it. Jon Malaya, for one, said he had nothing to do with it, and wasn't even one of those elected.) The result: last Thursday's boring seminar in the Manila Hotel became a spontaneous puppet rebellion.

Proclaimed by a seminar that went nuts were: Lito Atienza as party president; Michael Defensor, chair; Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, vice chair; chief presidential legal counsel Eduardo Nachura, secretary general; Ambassador to Greece Rigoberto Tiglao, deputy secretary general. How low can you hang? Never low enough. Ask Miles Roces. So young and yet so ... full of balls.

Anyway, "*Sulong* Liberal!" the puppet parade proclaimed; it would declare a new set of leadership in order. Cong Dadong's massive portrait seemed to smile. Those of Quirino and Roxas looked rather grim; the smaller portraits of other past Liberal worthies were on the other side of the big tarpaulin, overshadowed, and mercifully so; it would all have been an embarrassment to them had they been alive.

But politics is not about the past; it is about the present. And the present is about making a present out of the party itself. To the President.

Thus the President appeared, to receive the adoration of the massed marionettes, and to give her blessings to the scrotum of leadership. "*Kaya tuloy-tuloy ang ating* partnership, *ang ating makabuluhang alyansa na kinabubuti ng buong bansa at sambayanang* Pilipino. *Muli, mga* Liberal, *maraming salamat sa inyong suporta*," she said. Atienza is the Liberal wing beneath my wings, she announced. More than that, he is officially the Palace's supporter. A genuine jockstrap of a statement.

Poor Chito Gascon, too hairy to qualify as one of the smooth round spheres of power, appeared rather scandalized by all the testicular adoration and he stalked out. The discussion continued on an anatomical level in the media. "A rump session!" Protested Senate President Franklin Drilon, Neric Acosta, Butch Abad and even Mar Roxas, whom Pia Hontiveros twitted on TV for being uncharacteristically passionate about the whole thing. They thundered and shrilled about Atienza's rump: it was all merely a lot of hot air, they said.

Even if they said Atienza's rump only passed gas, who, Secretary Defensor asked, is now covered in a fine brown mist? Can he, or Miles Roces, or any of the others who starred in the march of the marionettes, help it if their partymates reduced Senate President Drilon to blubbering on TV? Such is democracy, the well-practiced line went; can they help it if there was a spontaneous manifestation of party democracy? After all, last Thursday's spontaneity was the best kind: well-organized.

Like LP candidate Serging Osmeña crying "We wuz robbed!" to the press following his loss to Marcos in the 1969 elections, the targets of the puppet attack could only speak of the rules, the party constitution, decency, tradition. Things the puppet faithful can't eat, much less swallow.

The President's contribution to the Liberals are, after all, significant: she did not run for the Senate, the vice presidency, or the presidency under it, despite her father's life-long membership in the party, precisely because she did not want to ruin the Liberal name with her record of government disservice; on that count, she's been the soul of consideration. She has cultivated the Liberal Party, it's true, but prefers to more fully care for her own pet party, Kampi, the boa constrictor in waiting, eager to swallow up the political anaconda known as the Lakas-CMD. The President is a pragmatist; the outflanked, outfoxed Liberals ambushed by the puppet attack, are mere sentimentalists.

In politics, it is as in war: fortune favors the bold—and the bald; though not bald as in Butch Abad, but bald, as in bald-faced lie: for even if puppetry can engineer a party coup, such a coup, because of the identity of the puppet-master, can never be considered anything more than a propaganda performance. Still, the bold, if not the beautiful, for now, are victorious.

Tomorrow, in Club Filipino, Senate President Drilon, Cory Aquino, Jovito Salonga, Mar Roxas, Kiko Pangilinan and others will reassert the identity of what they insist is the true Liberal Party, the kind that doesn't require strings. Of one thing, though, I'm sure: there won't be a tacky Hawaiian shirt among them.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

A better country, a better world

"I have tried to be objective; I cannot claim to be detached."—**C. Wright Mills**

COMMENTARY

Eugenia Duran-Apostol

IN 1983, SOMEBODY ENGRAVED THESE WORDS ON A 14" x 16" piece of wood and hung it on the wall behind my office desk.

Who put it there, I can no longer remember but the words no doubt have influenced my life through Mr. & Ms., the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Pinoy Times. My retirement from the writing profession notwithstanding, I commend media's principled stand against Proclamation 1017.

My own career in journalism—where I tried hard to be objective—cannot be separated from the crusade of the Filipino people against Marcos' martial law or President Estrada's shenanigans.

In 2002, when it seemed that Edsa I and II had not answered our prayers for a better life in a better country, I "instigated" an Education Revolution through the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP). We started by asking people not to go to Edsa anymore if they wanted genuine social change. Instead, we encouraged them to take a really close look at public schools and find out how they could help improve the schools and the quality of teaching in their respective barangays.

From the start, we already knew that organizing community action for public schools was a daunting task, but we got some help. My dear friend, the late Sen. Raul Roco, told us about Republic Act 8525 (Adopt-A-School Law of 1998). "Do you realize," he said, "that there is actually a law that gives a 150-percent tax incentive to private sector assistance to public education?" Wouldn't that motivate local entrepreneurs a little bit more to extend a helping hand to the public schools right in the communities where they do business? Indeed, it could.

Today, after three years of implementation in different parts of the country, the Education Revolution is poised to become a genuine national movement of school communities. For 2006, we will be fielding community development coordinators who are specially trained to set up Education Working Groups—essentially education stakeholders—tasked with drafting and implementing school improvement plans.

In line with this, we are introducing the concept of performance-based private sector support, which veers away from simple doles (just to help sustain public schools) to assistance for a reasonable but significant overall improvement in learning outcomes in the public school.

And that's not all. Teachers are the heart of the Education Revolution. Their ability to inspire excellence in their students directly rests on how well they see themselves as catalysts for social transformation. The Mentoring the Mentors Program of Education Revolution 2006 scales up its activities to reach as far as our dream will let us.

Here's how Dr. Eden Omboy, the recently retired Butuan City Schools division superintendent describes her Mentoring the Mentors experience:

"The Education Revolution via the Mentoring the Mentors Program came to DepEd Butuan City Division quietly, without fanfare, but the results were nothing less than a revolution from within! Little did I know it would change my life and those of other participants.

"I had been a Department of Education superintendent for 13 years and had been contemplating retirement at age 63. In recent years, the financial responsibility and extraneous functions of the job had isolated me from where the real action was in delivering education—the classroom!

"I had been trained as a teacher, not as a financial manager and, on those rare occasions when I was able to sit in the classroom, I saw the many challenges that a teacher faces every day given the realities in her midst: very large class size, overloaded curriculum, inadequate facilities, poor pay, family problems, and the teacher herself, ill-equipped to use teaching strategies that could ease her burden. What was really alarming was the prevailing cynicism—that hard work does not pay.

"I sat for four days in the Mentoring the Mentors training in Butuan and every day, during reflection and prayer, I realized that the real People Power must start from within ourselves; that we can only change people and realities if the change starts with us.

"To effect a real education revolution, there must be a sincere, actual '*Kambio sa Pananaw*" from the '*akin*' (mine) mentality to '*atin*' (ours) mentality. The collective progress must start from honest, collaborative hard work from each of us.

"I retired on Nov. 15, 2005. Since then, I have volunteered to join the Mentoring the Mentors team in Mindanao. We conducted trainings in Butuan City for DepEd Caraga; in Gingoog City DepEd Division under superintendent Myrna Mootoomull; in Iligan City under superintendent Lourdes Tulod; in Bukidnon with superintendent Gloria Benigno; in Agusan del Sur with superintendent Beatriz Omay; in Surigao del Sur with superintendent Fe Valeroso; in Bislig City with superintendent Lucy Castro; and in Surigao City with superintendent Leticia Naig.

The results of these training sessions were very inspiring. Participants would report to us changes in their outlook. "'*Parang magaan na ang pakiramdam ko*, Ma'am. *Sabi ng mga* teachers *sa* school, *palagi na akong naka*-smile.'

"They would report changes in their school as well. 'Ma'am, *pinalitan ko 'yung nilagay ko sa* door *ng* office. (Ma'am, I've changed the sign outside my office door). Now it says, 'Please come in anytime.' Another told us: 'Ma'am, *may bago na kaming pergola.* Painted yellow *para* cheerful!'

"Yet another said, 'Ma'am, *hindi na ako nagagalit pag nakaupo ang* teacher, *at ang mga bata ay maingay dahil sa kanilang* group work. *Ito 'yung* academic noise *na itinuro sa amin ni* Dr. Eve Mejillano. *Sinunod ko rin ang* suggestion *ni* Dr. Eve *na baguhin ang* seating arrangement *ng mga bata na hindi sila nakaharap sa likod ng kanilang* classmates. *Ngayon, sa bagong* seating arrangement, eyeball to eyeball *na sila! Masaya at gising ang mga bata ngayon* (I don't get annoyed anymore when the kids get noisy due to their group work. This must be the 'academic noise' that Dr. Evelyn Mejillano [Mentoring the Mentors national coordinator] talked to us about. I followed Dr. Eve's suggestion to change the seating arrangement so the children face one another, eyeball-to-eyeball. They're more alert and they seem like they're enjoying themselves in class).'

"These give us a beautiful start of the changes to come in our public education system. Dr. Sol F. Matugas, the dynamic regional director of DepEd Region VIII, has sent me this message for reflection: 'The real world is not outside but within ourselves. The real possessions are not those we hold in our hands but those that we give with our hearts!'"

The FWWPP has sown the seed for a real education revolution from within! Dr. Eden's words are pure adrenalin for us here at FWWPP; they inspire us to do better and keep the fire of People Power burning brightly. C. Wright Mills was right: we really should look at the world objectively, but we affirm our own humanity by doing our part to make this world better.

(You may send e-mail to the author at execdir@fwwpp.org.)

Drug problem much bigger than it is made to appear

THE "TIANGGE" IN PASIG SOLD MARIJUANA and shabu to the very rich all the way down to the very poor. After peddling drugs on the streets, the drug lords and their middlemen are now into a more sophisticated practice—letting their "clients" come to them instead; they're putting up shops!

In Cebu, you find establishments where you can insert your arm into a hole and, for a minimum charge of P30, ask for a shot, and a hidden person injects the merchandise into your arm. Very quick and impersonal service—you only see a hole and the person delivering the drug only sees an arm.

While these marketing tools speak of new trends in the sale of illicit drugs, the old methods of distributing dangerous drugs are still the most used.

In some police precincts in Metro Manila and in other parts of the country, the police round up the drug pushers and confiscate their shabu, only to turn it over to "friendly" pushers.

In public and private schools, drug pushers go for students and supply them with free samples of shabu until the "targets" become addicted to the prohibited substance. Only then would pushers demand payment for their "goods." With the need for money to buy illicit drugs, addicted students start selling to fellow students. The marketing network grows by leaps and bounds as new recruits become pushers.

A narration of the ways of drug pushing would be interesting but it wouldn't be able to show the enormity of the drug problem our nation faces.

A 1999 survey of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) revealed that the Philippines had 3.4 million addicts—1.8 million regular and 1.6 million occasional users. But the number of prevalent users was estimated at 9 million.

In June 2005, the DDB presented new figures: 6.7 million addicts; no specifics were given on the number of regular and occasional users. However, the number of prevalent users jumped to 11 million.

More troubling were the findings of a 2001 Social Weather Stations survey. Commissioned by the National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Center, they are reportedly being kept secret and have yet to see the light of day. That survey indicated 9.3 million maximum addicts and 2.2 million minimum. Under the "maximum" category are those who "partially admitted" to taking drugs; under "minimum" are those who "completely admitted" to taking drugs. Whatever, the survey showed that addicts are usually in a state of denial and tend to deny taking drugs or admit a drug intake less than their actual.

A physician has to look into the vital signs of a patient and arrives at a diagnosis through a battery of tests. In the war on illegal drugs, knowledge of both the supply side and demand side is required. And the public must be kept informed of the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth all the time!

—MIGUEL PEREZ-RUBIO,
ambassador (ret.),
7 San Geronimo,
Magallanes Village, Makati City

'Pinoy' commentary on sports events

THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT CAN TRULY spoil the telecast of a great sports event: very many commercials and very silly commentary. My friends and I endured these again in the recent satellite showing of the Viloria-Aguirre title fight and the NBA All-Star Game. The advertising assault, we can live with (thank heavens for the TV remote control!); the flimsy Filipino commentary, we can't.

Everyone knows that the vastly superior American commentary was available, but Solar Sports chose to go "Pinoy" as it did in the Pacquiao-Morales rematch. I'm not normally pro-American, but in cases like these, when the events are held in their turf, 'em Yanks are arguably the best. And sports fans, wherever they are in the world, deserve nothing less.

Of course, Solar Sports will say it did so to afford us locals a "distinctive Filipino flavor and perspective." Fine, but as in the Viloria-Aguirre setto, any Pinoy commentary tends to be more bland and biased than brilliant and balanced. (And who can ever forget that mystifying line uttered by the blow-by-blow announcer: "*Ang mga tama ni* Aguirre *ay hindi na luma*-landing!")

The original telecast NBA All-Star Game would have been an aural pleasure with Marv Albert and Doug Collins calling the shots. Alas, the Pinoy anchor there in Houston was almost always a pass late in describing the action, while his companion kept bombarding us with distracting statistics ad nauseum in his squeaky voice. And quite obviously, they didn't get cues from the American TV director so they (and us poor viewers) got lost when the coverage suddenly shifted to an off-court interview or a taped video.

But, hey, the Taglish commentary must count for major points, right? Come on, in broadcasting, it's what you say—and not how you say it—that really matters. The problem with sports television in this country is that anyone with enough name-dropping talent and facial thickness can be a "sportscaster," even if he or she is without any skill or savvy. There are those who are better read than heard, there are those who can only talk well with their fists, and there are those who ought to be covering only the Palarong Pambansa.

We hope that in the next satellite feed of a great sports event on American soil, Solar Sports (or whichever the local outfit may be) would at the very least give local viewers a choice of commentary: "Filipinized" on free TV and American on cable. That way, we don't have to use the remote control's mute function, as we often did in those two sports events.

—GINO O. GUERRERO,
goguerrero3@yahoo.com

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Lomibao: Bishops not on arrest list

DAGUPAN CITY—DIRECTOR GENERAL ARTURO Lomibao has denied reports that Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz and three other Catholic bishops who are critical of the Arroyo administration, have been included in Malacañang's "order of battle."

"*Wala naman* (There's nothing)," Lomibao said here on Saturday. "I should know, I am also close to Malacañang."

But Cruz said Lomibao did not know everything. "This is one matter that he does know," the bishop told reporters.

Cruz earlier said he and three other bishops in Luzon had been on the list of people to be arrested on suspicion of conniving with groups plotting to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

He said he first received the information about his supposed arrest from a source close to Malacañang. On Sunday, he said a Manila-based reporter called him to get his reaction about a government intelligence report on his impending arrest.

"The reporter saw the report. He called up and asked me about it," Cruz said.

He said Malacañang could be hot on his trail because of his "jueteng" exposés last year. His witnesses had linked members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's family to *jueteng*, an illegal numbers game, and election fraud.

In Pampanga, retired Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez denied a TV report identifying him as a member o a planned junta in case Ms Arroy was unseated.

"It's a recycled accusation," Dominguez said in a phone interview. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonett Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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NPA AMBUSH AFTERMATH

480 soldiers to be retrained

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

JAMINDAN, CAPIZ—ABOUT 480 SOLDIERS of the Army's 47th Infantry Battalion will be retrained here almost three months after a New People's Army (NPA) ambush in Iloilo that resulted in the death of nine of their comrades.

Lt. Col. Mariano Antonio Perez, the newly replaced battalion commander, said the retraining at the 3rd Infantry Division headquarters based in Camp Peralta in Jaena Norte in April and May was part of the Army's efforts to enhance the soldiers' capabilities.

The trainees will be replaced by members of Task Force Panay, an inter-service anti-insurgency unit operating on Panay Island.

Perez, who led the 47th IB for a year and two months, will be reassigned to the Army's national headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo. He was replaced by Lt. Col. Earl Baliao, a former division comptroller, in a simple turnover rite on Feb. 15.

In December last year, soldiers returning to their camp were ambushed as they were passing through a narrow road in Sitio Simadbad, Barangay Mambiranan in Calinog, Iloilo.

A truck leading the military convoy and with 32 soldiers on board ran over a land mine planted by the rebels. After the explosion, the guerrillas appeared and started shooting at the soldiers.

Killed were Staff Sergeants Alexander Luis, Mildguidez Montemayor, Paterno Villorente and Ronnel Panes; Privates First Class Rosebelt Nool, Rodelio Pacia, James Bryan Angeles and Dave Villamor; and Corporal Marlo Petalio.

Twenty other soldiers were wounded.

Despite the casualties, Perez belittled the NPA attack.

"It was a mere show of force. They wanted to project that they are still strong. Actually, they are not," he said.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BALIKATAN
An American soldier assists a Filipino troop in a live field battery fire during the just concluded joint US-RP military exercise in Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City.

ROUNDUP

Cracks in mining area

BAKA LUMALA...

COTABATO CITY—Land cracks have been discovered in Tampakan, South Cotabato where a mining company operates, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Central Mindanao said. Jose Madrona, MGB director, said the cracks were not caused by the operations of Sagittarius Mines Inc. but were "old ones as evidenced by the existence of old slumps." Madrona said the bureau had sent a team to check on land cracks reportedly found in Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat. The MGB has been monitoring areas where possible landslides could occur following the St. Bernard mudslide tragedy in Southern Leyte two weeks ago.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Radioman posts bail

BUTUAN CITY—Police arrested a radio broadcaster facing a P20-million libel suit filed by Mayor Democrito Plaza while hosting his program on Friday morning. Quintin Dangga Jr., station manager of Radio Mindanao Network here, later posted bail. Last year, Plaza sued Dangga after the broadcaster publicized findings of the Commission on Audit of discrepancies in the city government's expenditures involving the procurement of a P50-million traffic light system, purchase of jeeps and supposed excesses during the city's centennial celebration. Plaza has denied any wrongdoing.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cop dies in robbery

COTABATO CITY—A policeman was killed on March 1 when he tried to grab the firearm of one of seven men who were divesting bus passengers of their money and other valuables in Pikit, North Cotabato. Insp. Pikit police chief Andaman Dicay identified the lawman as PO1 Rey Achilar of the President Roxas town police, also in North Cotabato. Dicay said Achilar was shot by another robber during the holdup of passengers of a Cotabato City-bound Weena Bus in Barangay Nalapaan. The robbers fled on foot.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Low birth registration

PAPANO YAN, ALIEN BA AKO?

COTABATO CITY—The percentage of live birth registration remains low in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, officials of the National Statistics Office said. NSO-ARMM director Commando Pilimpinas blamed "some" Islamic practices and lack of education as hindrances to the smooth implementation of the government's civil registry program in the region. He said the NSO has embarked on a massive information campaign and a "mobile registration" system in the remote villages of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. He said ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan has pledged P3 million for the project.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tower parts stolen

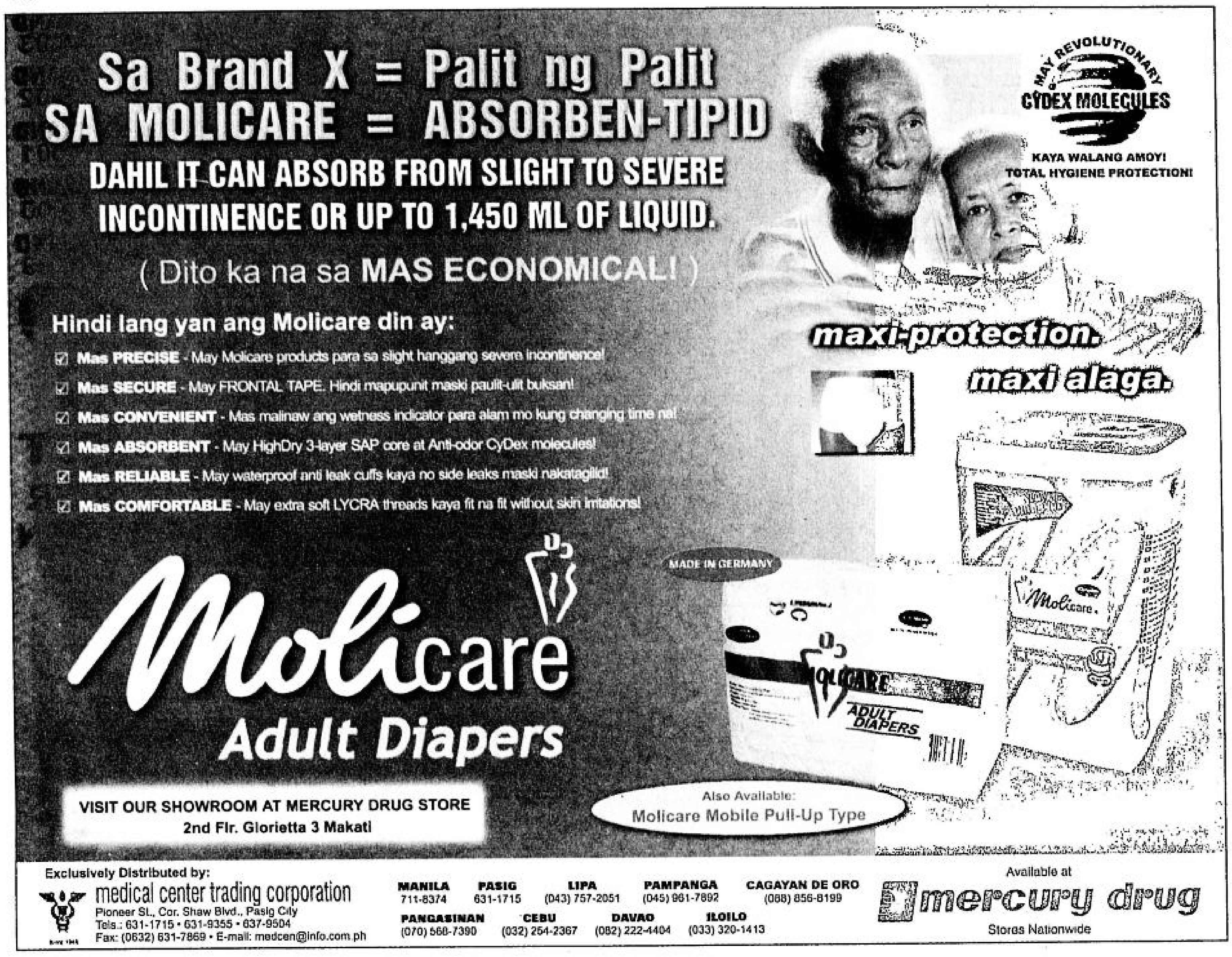
BACOLOD CITY—About 210 pieces of tower parts worth about P100,000 were found stolen Tuesday by unidentified thieves from five transmission towers of the National Transmission Corp. in Barangay Vista Alegre here. Transco-Negros manager Zosimo Briones warned that if such thefts were not stopped, the towers might fall because of weakened supports, which would cause blackout in northern Negros Occidental. He called the attention of all barangay chairs in the areas where Transco transmission lines traverse to be vigilant. Senior Supt. Pedro Merced, provincial police director, said he assured Briones that he would deploy police in the area.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Village chair shot dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—An unidentified gunman shot dead a barangay captain in San Pablo City on Saturday. Police said Adonis Pecayo, village chair of Barangay San Vicente, was about to leave a drugstore along Flores St. in Barangay Poblacion at around 7:45 p.m. when the suspect shot him at close range. He was declared dead on arrival at the San Pablo District Hospital.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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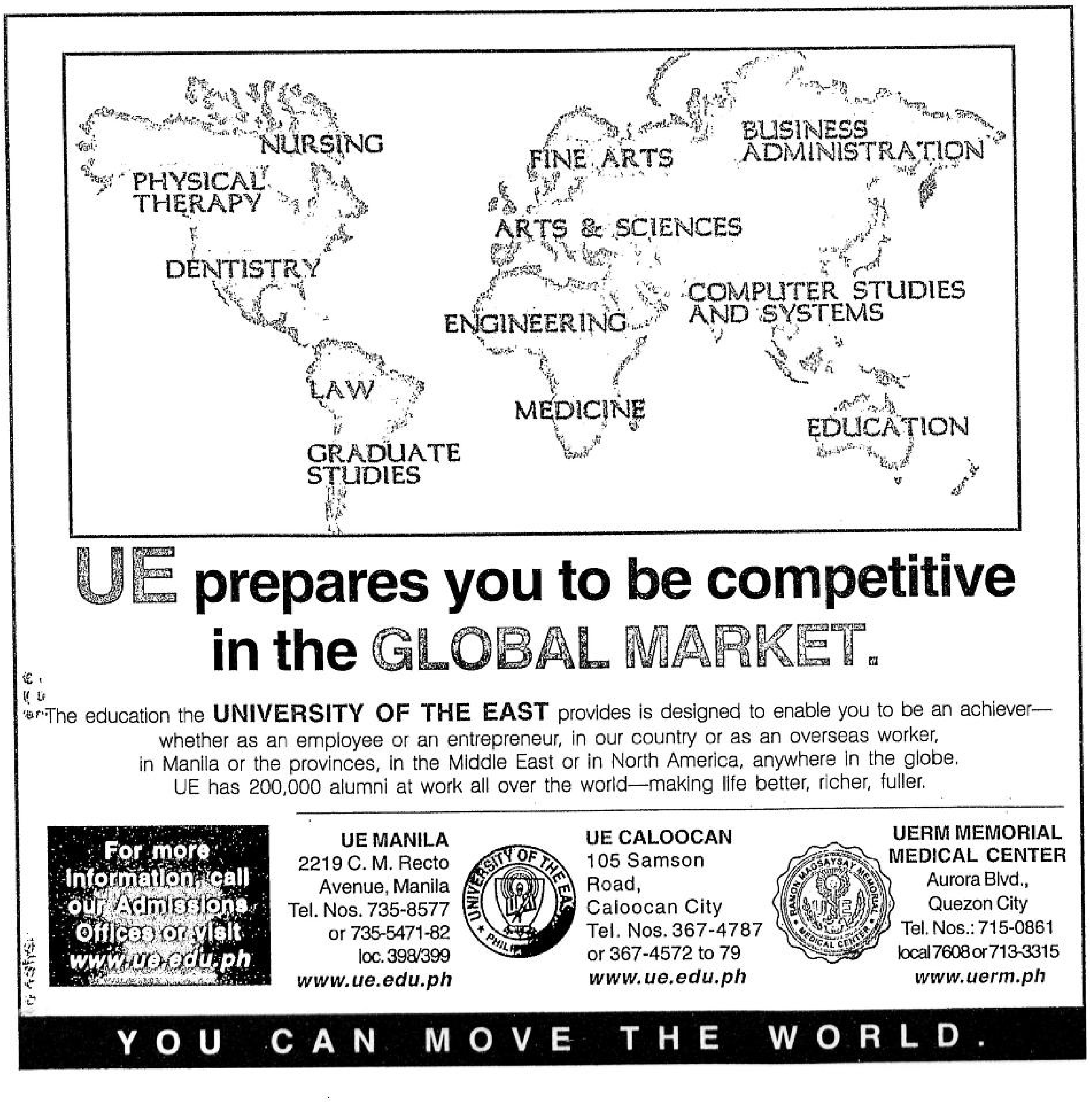

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Standoff in Tanauan ends in violence

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TANAUAN CITY—THE ALMOST one-month standoff at the Tanauan City Hall saw a violent end on Friday as about 1,000 policemen dispersed supporters of defeated Mayor Alfredo Corona who had barricaded the building since Feb. 7.

More than 100 supporters of Corona, including two Catholic priests, were injured when policemen armed with guns and truncheons entered the City Hall premises at around 4 a.m.

The injured were brought to the Daniel Mercado Medical Center.

Negotiators

Councilor Armin Roxas said parish priest Diosdado Collado and his assistant, Fr. Chris de Guzman, were negotiating with Corona when the police officers entered the mayor's office.

During the scuffle, Roxas said the priests were clubbed in the arms.

A few minutes earlier, a bomb exploded at the back of the building, prompting the police to clear the area, said city police chief, Supt. Manuel Abu.

No one was hurt in the explosion.

Abu said the dispersal operation was not illegal. "We just implemented the order of the Comelec and the (Department of the Interior and Local Government) which installed (Sonia) Torres-Aquino as the duly elected mayor of Tanauan," he told the INQUIRER.

Abu said members of the Air Force's Explosives Ordnance Division based in Fernando Air Base in Lipa City found a dynamite stick with a blasting cap at the men's toilet.

Aquino, who was declared rightful winner in the 2004 elections by the Commission on Elections, arrived at the mayor's office at around 10:30 a.m.

She appealed for calm amid the tension at City Hall. "Let us all forget the political bickering and instead work together toward the development of Tanauan," she told a crowd of about 500 followers who greeted her.

Asked what she would do to bring back normal operations at City Hall, she said: "We would first clean City Hall of the garbage that the [protesters] left. I will also issue an order to immediately release the salary of the employees."

It was the first time that Aquino set foot at the seat of the city government after the Comelec's Second Division issued a resolution on Dec. 22, 2005, declaring her the winner in the mayoral elections.

Arrested

Abu said two supporters of Corona had been arrested and would be charged with disobedience and disrespect to police authorities.

The protesters also destroyed a van owned by television giant ABS-CBN. Corona's supporters have accused the media of being biased against the former mayor.

Trucks, buses and fire trucks were placed as roadblocks in three major entry points to the City Hall.

Corona moved to the church, together with his supporters.

Abu said that of the 963 policemen deployed in the area, almost 600 were members of the Crowd Dispersal Management (CDM) unit from the Calabarzon.

Thirty private security guards were also sent to maintain security in the area.

He said the Task Force Tanauan decided to retain about 600 policemen to guard the City Hall premises from protesters who might try to regain control of the building.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Prospero Noble led the police contingent that stormed the City Hall.

Negros governor orders relocation of families in disaster-prone areas

DUMAGUETE CITY—NEGROS Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz has directed municipal mayors and barangay leaders in the province to relocate families living in disaster-prone areas in their localities to prevent fatalities in case of natural calamity.

In a meeting of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council on Friday, Arnaiz also directed all local government units in the province to submit disaster-preparedness plans for review by the PDCC.

The meeting was called in the aftermath of the killer landslides in Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte that buried more than 900 persons.

Financial help

The provincial government has appropriated P500,000 to help the victims of the tragedy.

Arnaiz requested the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as the National Irrigation Administration, to review and validate studies of flash flood-prone areas in the province.

Landslides brought about by incessant rains occurred in the town of Tayasan last month and destroyed three hectares of agricultural land. No one was reported hurt as the area was far from residences.

The landslide was the second to be reported in the village in almost 20 years.

Other disaster-prone areas in the province are in the southern towns of Negros Oriental.

Siaton and other southern towns were cut off from the rest of the province for three days some two years ago when the Siaton River overflowed and eroded the foundation of the bridge leading to the town.

In Sta. Catalina town, several people occupying the riverbank were killed by landslides in the past several years. *Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Sorsogon gov starts Cha-cha ball rolling

SORSOGON CITY—GOV. RAUL Lee has initiated a drive which aims to inform the public about the pros and cons of proposed changes in the Constitution, especially on the issue of shifting to a parliamentary form of government.

In asking the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for funding, Lee said it was the duty of the government to let the people know and understand the repercussions of the change.

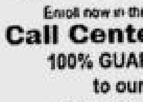
Lee said P1.2 million would be spent for the production of leaflets and brochures detailing facts about the issues, and for the formation of a speakers' bureau that would explain to the public everything it needed to know.

"Only a well-informed populace can make an intelligent decision on crucial matters like Charter change," he said.

The information drive is set to start next week, Lee said.

Rep. Jose Solis said he would help the governor in his efforts, saying the proposed Charter change was crucial to the future of the country.

In a speech before the First Bicol Vice Mayors League Regional Convention, Solis said it was the duty of every elective official to explain to their constituents the advantages and disadvantages of the changes being proposed. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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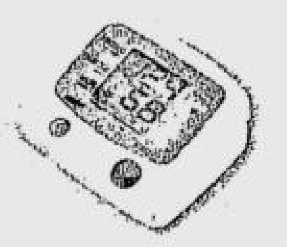

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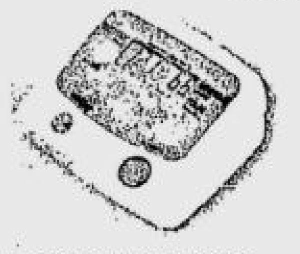

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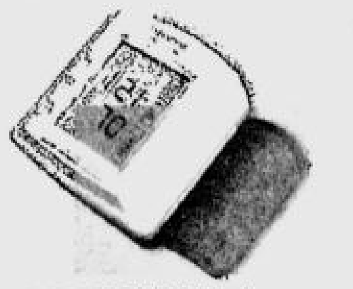

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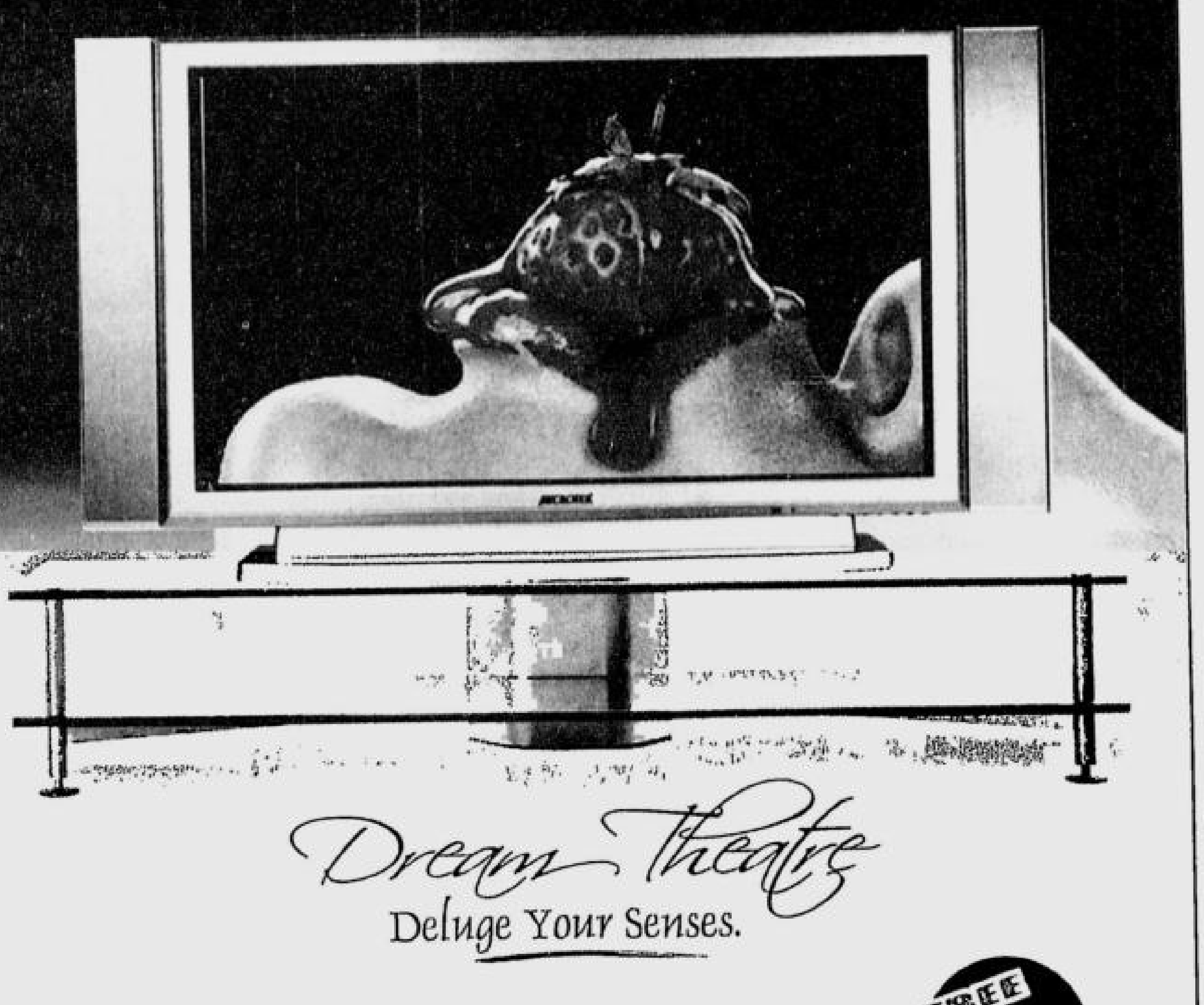

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Discovery of rare flower opens tourism opportunity for Iriga

IRIGA CITY—AFTER OFFICIAL confirmation of the discovery of a new species of Rafflesia, a rare flower that smells like rotting flesh when in bloom here, the city government is cashing in on the opportunity to sell its place to visitors through a tour of the plants' habitat in Mt. Asog.

Mayor Madeleine Alfelor-Gazmen said the city had already received a certification the new species, named *Rafflesia irigaense*, from Dr. Domingo Madulid, plant specialist and curator of the National Museum.

Gertrude Girlie Jaucian-Adan, a researcher from the Camarines Sur State Agricultural College who first validated the existence of the new Rafflesia species, said the certificate was given during a meeting Tuesday at the National Museum's office in Manila.

Alfelor-Gazmen said she called for a meeting of village officials and the City Development Council on the same day to orient them of the city government's immediate measure to preserve the Rafflesia's habitat.

"Aside from the important contribution to the biodiversity of the world, *Rafflesia irigaense* will endure as our icon to lure local and foreign tourists," the mayor said.

She said she had ordered the construction of a road to the village up in Asog and that facilities for the public viewing of the Rafflesia were on the drawing board.

Alfelor-Gazmen said the plants' habitat had been secured with a perimeter fence. The city will proceed with the construction of a viewing deck and a bridge above the area, she said.

The mayor said the new species was discovered by a mountaineer on Feb. 10 during the Tinagba Festival, which celebrated Iriga's founding anniversary.

The flowering plant was found by Dominic Bagacina, 26, a member of the team of mountaineers who climbed Asog on Feb. 9, which the city government sponsored to promote biodiversity as part of the Tinagba festivities.

Since 1989, four species of Rafflesia have so far been found in the Philippines and 16 more species were discovered in the forests of Indonesia and Malaysia.

Alfelor-Gazmen said the city government and the CSSAC were campaigning for the declaration of Asog as a protected area to preserve biodiversity in the area. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Pangasinan towns gear up for summer festivals

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—TOWNS AND cities in Pangasinan have started preparations to showcase their culture and products through various festivals this summer to perk up local tourism and trade.

Gov. Victor Agbayani said the festivals were expected to bring in tourists and highlight the rich culture of Pangasinan.

On April 3-19, Mapandan, a fourth-class municipality (annual income: P13 million-P21 million) in central Pangasinan, will stage the "Pandan Festival" that will feature traditional practices in courtship, wedding, pregnancy, childbirth and house building.

For the first time, a "cookfest" will be held, using such "exotic" ingredients as frogs, crickets, grasshoppers, monitor lizards and field mice, Mayor Ferdinand Calimlim said.

On April 29, Alcala, another fourth-class municipality, will try to unseat Dagupan by holding its own longest *bangus* (milkfish) and barbecue grills.

But Mayor Manuel Collado said the event would also try to raise funds from residents now living abroad for various town projects.

"We will lay a 3-km grill that will pass through five villages and will grill 20,000 pieces of *bangus* and 4,000 kilograms of pork barbecue," he said.

He said 975 three-meter grills had been "presold," for $100 each, mostly to *balikbayan*.

"We are not promoting any products of the town, we only want merrymaking and earn at the same time. The funds that we will raise will be deposited with a local foundation and will be used for health, education and livelihood projects," the mayor said.

Dagupan will be conducting the annual Bangus Festival to promote the city's *bangus* growing industry.

San Carlos City will have its Mango and Bamboo Festival to promote its main produce.

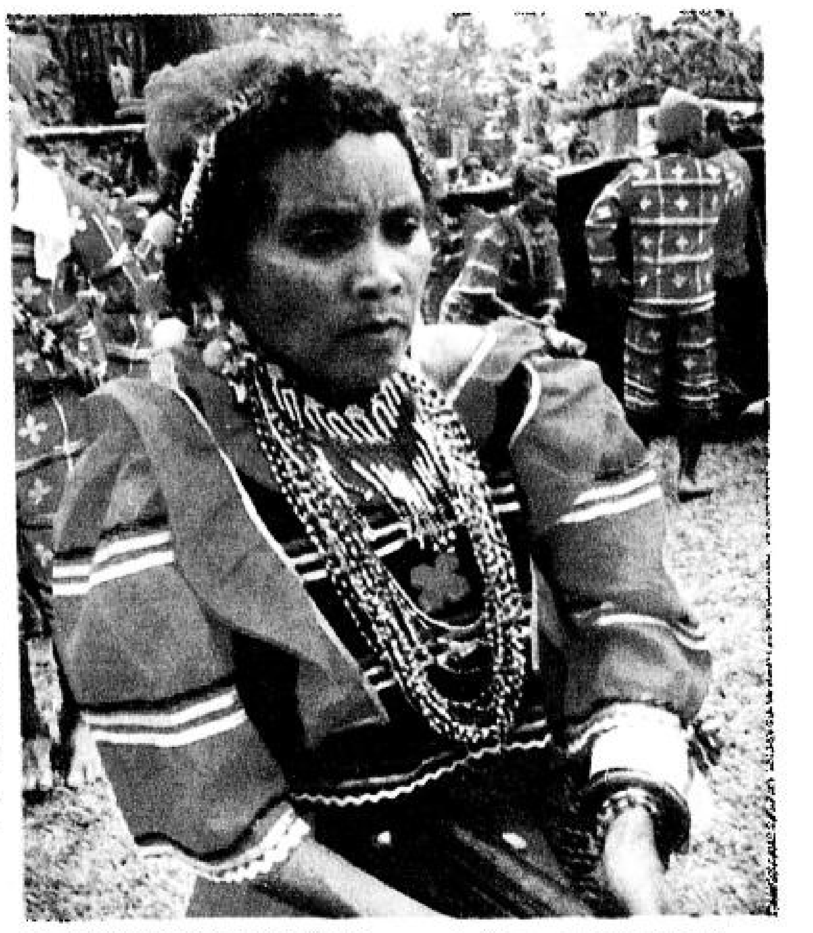
Mayor Julian Resuello said that while other provinces might have surpassed the city's mango harvest, San Carlos is still known to be "mango country" whose people have mastered the art of mango production and marketing.

"Many residents are hired by orchard owners from other provinces to take care of their orchards. Mangoes produced from other provinces are traded in San Carlos, either for export or for local consumption," Resuello said.

The city is also known for its bamboo craft.

"We have 2,000 km of rivers and creeks whose banks are planted to bamboo. Many residents depend on the bamboo industry for livelihood," he said.

The festivals will be capped by the annual Pista y Dayat (Sea Festival) in the capital town of Lingayen from the last week of April until the first week of May.



A TIGWAHANON WOMAN takes a rest after a performance of Bangkakawan, a traditional thanksgiving celebration among the tribes who live along the watershed of Tigua River and Tiguasalog in San Fernando, Bukidnon. GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

'Lumad' join Kaamulan festival in Malaybalay

MALAYBALAY CITY—ALL ROADS here lead to the capitol grounds for the annual Kaamulan Festival that opened Feb. 12 and will end on March 10.

The Kaamulan, derived from a Bukidnon term meaning gathering of farmers to celebrate a bountiful harvest, has been identified by the Department of Tourism as an international attraction comparable to the Sinulog in Cebu and the Dinagyang in Iloilo.

On Saturday morning until noontime, a street dancing competition was held, but only seven of the 20 municipalities joined because of the high cost of mounting a performance.

Prizes for winners range from P50,000 to P150,000. The amounts, however, are not enough to cover expenses for costumes, props and provisions for the participants who arrived here two days earlier for rehearsals.

This year's winner was the contingent from Malitbog town where the Higaonon tribe come from.

Most of the rituals were related to the "Tampuda Ho Balagun" or tribal peace pact; "Bangkakawan," a thanksgiving celebration; "Kagbasukan," which encompasses all *lumad* activities in the field; and the way of life of the indigenous peoples.

Provincial tourism officer Elsie Gail Cudal-Ocaya said the new attractions included the First National Folklore Conference and the Bansagen Art Exhibit featuring local art works mostly depict the environment and the indigenous peoples' lives.

"There is a need to promote our own artists who are already travelling to many countries in the world showcasing their talents as well as bringing the Bukidnon culture to many different nationalities," Ocaya said.

"That is why we have also a concert where we are featuring the 'Waway Saway' for the people to really appreciate our own and very unique culture." *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2,500 kg of stinking fish ruin festival in Pampanga

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—BIGgest sizzling *sisig* plate, largest egg pan, longest *longganiza* and giant Christmas lanterns are some of the record-setting feats in Pampanga.

But the list came with an embarrassing mark on Saturday when at least 2,500 kilograms of stinking fish ruined the bid of aquaculture farmers to set a record for the longest line of grilled *tilapia* here.

At the Philippine Constabulary segment of the 1.7-km aluminum grill, housewives and students participating in the festival complained of the stench as soon as the fish, packed in plastic bags, were handed to them.

"They smell bad," the women said as photographers took shots of what was supposed to be the concluding event of the Third National Tilapia Congress.

Receiving similar complaints, provincial agriculturist Mario Mangiliman advised the organizers, the Philippine Tilapia Inc. (PTI) and the Alternative Communications, to stop the distribution of the fish 30 minutes after the event opened at noon.

"*Bilasa na* (They're not fresh)," he told reporters. "What were supposed to be grilled were live fish."

Mangiliman said the provincial capitol hosted the event and had nothing to do with the purchase or handling of the fish that would be used in the event.

The stench wafted through the capitol grounds and the balcony leading to the government offices.

Remedios Ongtangco, Central Luzon director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, noted the "improper handling" of the freight.

Ice and salt, she said, were not used to keep the fish fresh.

"The fish were sealed and that might have caused the foul smell," she said.

Emee Tan, a fisheries technician, said the 2.5-ton cargo, kept in refrigerated vans that came from Pulilan, Bulacan, was delivered at 2 a.m. on Friday.

The cargo was taken to Candaba, Pampanga, where the fish were scaled and gutted, loaded in trucks and repacked in 1-kg bags. These were delivered just before the grilling began on Saturday.

The fish cost P135,000, Tan said.

While Ongtangco and BFAR technicians noted that the fish were not rotten, meaning the flesh was still firm and edible, revelers hardly touched the servings.

At 2 p.m. when almost everybody had left, Philippine National Red Cross medics reported no incidents of food poisoning.

Reporters tried to get the side of PTI through its officer Mon Herrera. The INQUIRER tried calling Herrera several times but his mobile phone was off.

He did not reply to text messages. Neither Herrera nor Jet Ramos, a member of the secretariat, returned the INQUIRER's call at past 3 p.m. to explain the incident.

Ongtangco said the incident did not spoil the holding of the congress, which, she added, was attended by some 1,000 *tilapia* growers from several regions.

She said Pampanga was chosen as venue for the congress and the grilling fest because the province was the top performer in *tilapia* culture in the last six years. Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Tarlac produced a total of 66,262 metric tons in 2004.

That output, according to Ongtangco, was 45 percent of the total *tilapia* production in the country that year. The Philippines is the fourth largest *tilapia* producer in the world

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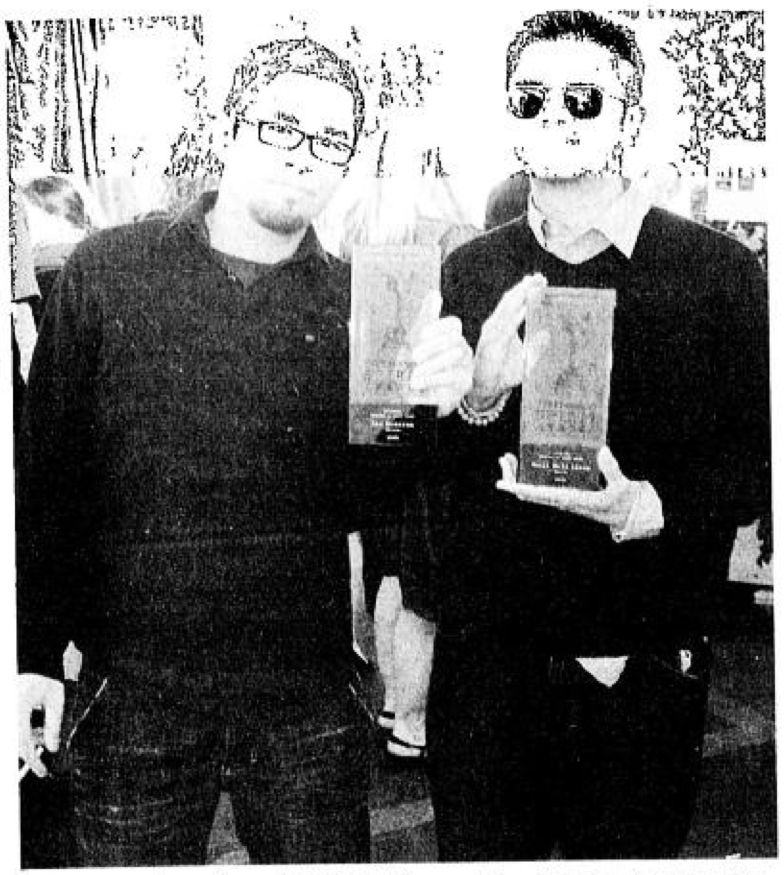

WINNING filmmakers Neill Dela Llana and Ian Gamazon pose in the backstage press room with their trophies. RUBEN NEPALES

2 Fil-Ams win top int'l award for indie film

From page A1

award handed out on Saturday.

Top honors went to "Brokeback Mountain" for Best Picture and Ang Lee for Best Director.

Presented by Film Independent, the awards have become an annual tradition on the eve of the Oscars (scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. today, Manila time).

In keeping with its aim of honoring films and filmmakers who champion artistic independence and challenge the status quo, the Independent Spirit Awards is a relaxed, informal event held at a beachside tent in Santa Monica.

"Cavite," a film shot for 10 days in the Philippine province, tells the story of Adam, played by Gamazon, who goes home for his father's funeral. A phone call at the airport upon his arrival, telling Adam that his family has been kidnapped, forces him to obey the anonymous caller's orders.

No clue

"I had no clue that we were going to win," Dela Llana told the INQUIRER. "Honestly, we didn't want to expect anything. It's an honor to be recognized at this level."

The two filmmakers won over Robinson Devor and Jay Duplass, for "Police Beat" and "The Puffy Chair," respectively.

Filipino-American director David Maquiling was a nominee for the same award in 1992 for his film, "Too Much Sleep."

Asked what they would do with their $25,000 grant, Dela Llana replied, "We'll pay the bills and, hopefully, get another project off the ground."

The two thirtysomething Filipino-Americans have been financing their feature films using credit cards. "Cavite" is their fourth feature film. The grant is considerably more than their entire budget for "Cavite."

Relatives' places

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Gamazon said the film's location was chosen because "Neill's relatives live in Cavite. That made everything easier for us to shoot there."

The winners, who have been friends since high school, laughed when asked about their work.

"It was just the two of us," Dela Llana explained. "Camera (pointing at himself) and cast (pointing at Ian)." Both wrote and directed the movie, with Dominique Gonzalez credited as the other actor.

Gamazon added: "But we had the help of our location scout."

Gamazon, whose trip to Cavite was his first since he and his family left for the US, said, "Everything about the Philippines was interesting to me since I hadn't been there since I was nine. I loved it. We're both very inspired to make more films there."

The kidnapping thriller will be shown in the Philippines by Unitel Pictures in June or July. Unitel Pictures also bought the worldwide rights to the film except in North America.

Hardscrabble filmmaking

A portion of a review of "Cavite" by the Los Angeles Times' Kevin Crust echoed what most critics in the US loved about the film:

"Gamazon and Dela Llana use the hardscrabble guerrilla filmmaking to their advantage in carving out a smart film that explores Adam's hard-boiled cultural rebirth as he journeys through the back alleys and dusty villages in this crisply edited suspense story. The resourceful filmmakers also manage to keep what could easily have been a gimmick—a script in which 90 percent of the dialogue is phone conversations—fresh and compelling to the end."

The film has won acclaim at several US and international film festivals.

Dela Llana remarked that they would celebrate their victory with "a couple of drinks, do a little wining and dining."

Key awards

The other key awards went to Felicity Huffman (Best Actress for "Transamerica"), Philip Seymour Huffman (Best Actor, "Capote"), Matt Dillon (Best Supporting Actor, "Crash") and Amy Adams (Best Supporting Actress, "Junebug").

The other winners:

Best screenplay: Dan Futterman, "Capote."

Best first feature: "Crash," Paul Haggis.

Best first screenplay: Duncan Tucker, "Transamerica."

John Cassavetes award (for the Best Feature made for under $500,000): "Conventioneers."

Best cinematography: Robert Elswit, "Good Night, and Good Luck."

Best foreign film: "Paradise Now."

Best documentary: "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room."

AMC/American Express producers award: Caroline Baron, "Capote" and Caroline Baron, "Monsoon Wedding."

Truer than fiction award: Ian Olds and Garrett Scott, "Occupation: Dreamland."

Don't judge me too harshly, says victim

From page A1

nursing course, Nicole had decided to help out in the canteen.

"I'm used to socializing with Americans so I felt safe and comfortable with them," the daughter of a naval officer and a Philippine Navy employee yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Before the night was over on Nov. 1 last year, however, Nicole would accuse US Marines of dragging her into a rented van and raping her.

Although four servicemen have been charged with gang rape and are now in the custody of the US Embassy, Nicole's story has been met with general skepticism.

Speculation is rife that she is a "good time girl" out to bleed the Americans for what some detractors described as "consensual sex."

Worse, when the case was pushed into the back burner by more urgent news headlines, radio commentators and columnists went to town with stories that Nicole and her family had been paid off to settle the case.

Not a sex worker

It became just too much for Nicole, who finally spoke to media "to correct impressions that I'm a sex worker who is in it for the money."

She vehemently denied the claims. "I am going to pursue the case until the guilty parties are convicted," she vowed.

It was a decision she had made immediately after the rape.

"I just wanted to teach them a lesson," she said, speaking in Filipino and English. "Not all women they meet are fair game."

It was only later that she realized how the case could hurt her and her family, "especially my mother," she said, her voice breaking.

Since the Nov. 1 incident, she has been staying in Manila. She sorely misses her family of 11 siblings. "This is the first and longest time I've been away from them," she said.

But she has accepted that she might eventually have to relocate to Manila, where her relative anonymity has preserved her privacy.

In Zamboanga, where her family is quite prominent, people know about her case and talk about her. Some of her former classmates at the Ateneo have been interviewed on local radio.

Not after money

"I feel I can no longer walk the streets in Zamboanga," she said. She feels embarrassed. Some friends pity her. "Other people look at me differently—like they think I'm only after money," she said.

What really hurt, she recounted, was the label "prostitute" that an American had thrown at her on national television during a women's rally at the US Embassy to support her. "I'm the victim here. Why are they blaming me?"

Online blogs about the case are as judgmental. "Even if she comes from a good family and graduated from a good school, she certainly lost her common sense when she stepped out with the six US Marines in that bar," read a typical comment.

"That is so unfair," said Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez, a psychiatry professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and board member of the Sexual Violence Research Initiatives of the World Health Organization.

"Why are we putting rape victims on trial here? Why are we asking only about their background? Why are we not looking at the record and background of the rapists as well?" she asked.

Misconceptions

Lopez, who has studied 112 rape cases at the Philippine General Hospital, said the Subic rape case again highlighted the common misconceptions that the public has about rape.

"Foremost of these misconceptions is that rape could actually be consensual sex if the woman has no injuries," she said. "But in 75 percent of rape cases, there are little or no signs of physical injuries."

Another myth is that rape only happens to loose women, Lopez said.

"Rape happens across classes and ages." This misconception often worsens the stigma attached to rape survivors, she said, adding:

"That's why most survivors relocate after the rape."

Again, contrary to popular perception, rapes are committed under circumstances where most women would feel safe.

"Women are often raped at home, during dates, in places they would normally feel comfortable in," Lopez said.

Traumatic memory

There is also the misconception that the women's testimony must be "consistent."

"There is such a thing as traumatic memory which is not a chronological nor logical recall," said Lopez.

Fortunately, aside from counseling, there are ways to help rape victims cope, said Lopez.

Together with the Women's Legal Bureau, the Philippine Judicial Academy and the PGH Women's Desk, Lopez is conducting a sensitization program for Regional Trial Court judges and personnel, and police officers.

"First, it is important to reassure survivors about their physical health. That's why rapes are classified as an emergency and survivors are given top priority so they can be screened immediately for injuries, possible infections and sexually transmitted diseases."

Next, she added: "It is important to instill in the woman's mind that it was not her fault. Most survivors think that they brought about the rape because of something they did or did not do. They know that they would get blamed for it. In fact, women are more concerned about what their families or boyfriends or husbands would say so most of them would rather not report the rape itself."

Justice must be served

Helping rape victims recover also requires that justice is served, Lopez said. But care must be taken so that the process is not traumatic, she said. In most cases, the victims feel they're on trial themselves.

Nicole said she was ready for all that. "I am only fighting for my dignity and that of my family," she said. "I just hope people would support me in this struggle. Please don't judge me too harshly. I'm only seeking justice."

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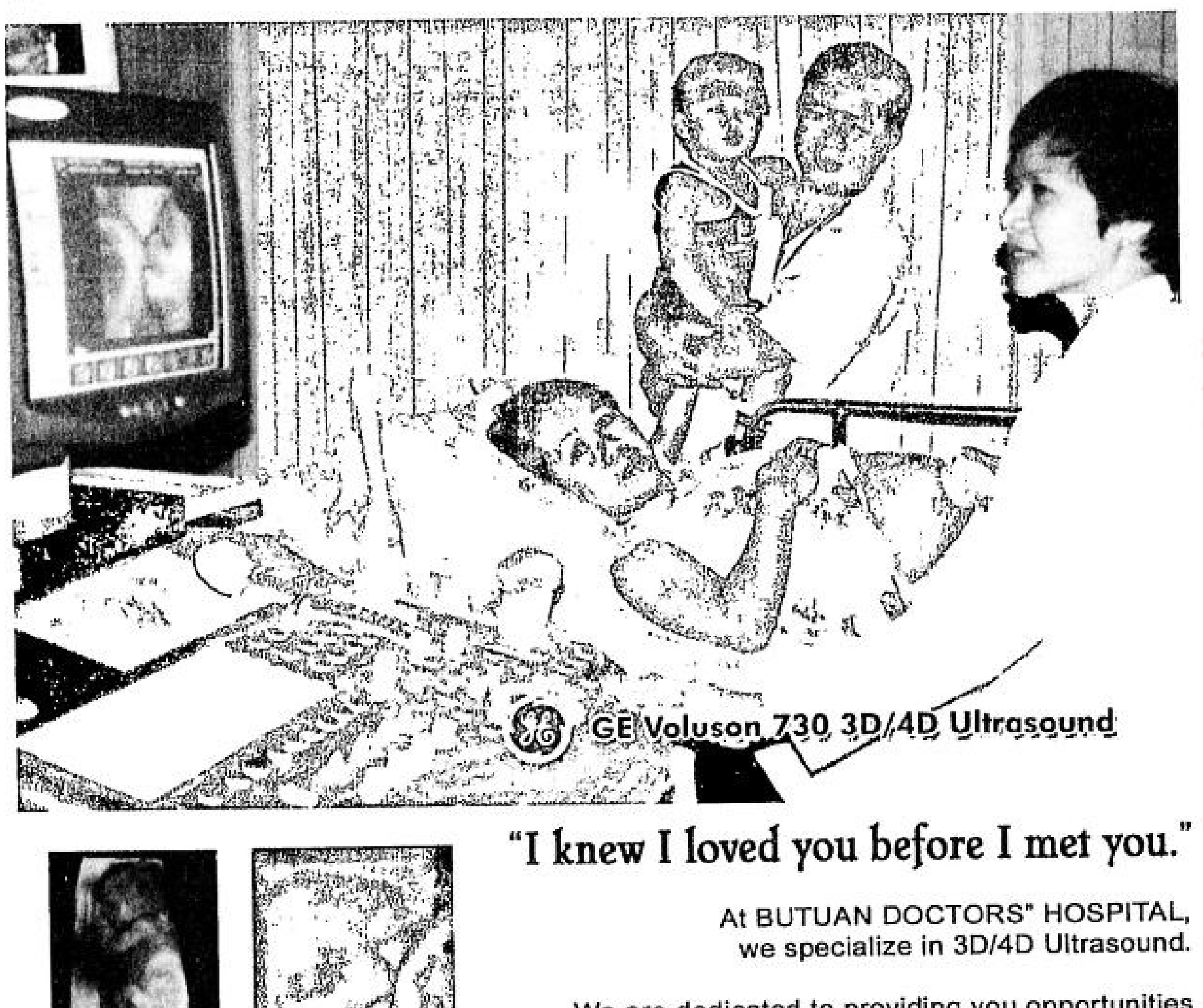

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TV docus prop up Palace propaganda war

From page A1

Feb. 24, the 20th anniversary of Edsa I.

The documentary, whose production was recommended by the National Security Council, disclosed the alleged conspiracy among elements of the Right, Left and the opposition to oust Ms Arroyo.

Remonde said the documentary was a "small effort to make people understand what's going on."

Clear and present

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the showing of the documentary was meant "to prove to the world that the threat was clear and present."

"It was one way of showing to the people that (the declaration of a state of emergency) was really demanded by the event," Gonzalez said.

Because the documentary was based on captured documents from people linked to the alleged conspiracy, it would be absorbed more "by the senses," the justice secretary said.

Gonzalez acknowledged that because of the way the opposition had played up things and made negative statements about Proclamation No. 1017, "people tend to misinterpret government's action."

He cited the "misunderstanding" that happened when police swooped on the hospital where Estrada was confined in the early hours of Feb. 24.

Gonzalez said people thought the police were out to take Estrada but the purpose really was to secure the area.

Since the airing of "Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017" on government television stations, demand for it among local government officials, businessmen and other sectors like schools was up, according to Remonde.

CD copies

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, in his "View from the Palace" column yesterday, said compact disc copies of the documentary were available upon request.

"For the computer-savvy, you may wish to check out www.gov.ph," Bunye said.

Asked how long the documentary would be shown on government television, Remonde said "as long as necessary."

A military spokesperson said placing the country under a state of emergency remained an option for the government.

"The tension has been greatly lessened. But if the recruitment (to unseat Ms Arroyo) remains, we are ready for any contingency," said the military spokesperson, Col. Tristan Kison.

Kison said the conspiracy to unseat Ms Arroyo involved the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the Magdalo rebels and a third group that included businessmen, politicians and other rogue soldiers. The Magdalo group staged a mutiny in 2003.

"These three groups are talking to each other," he said.

'Para sa Bayan'

He identified the third group as "Para sa Bayan."

"In the diagram provided by our intelligence unit, three groups are initiating the (moves) to bring down the Arroyo government—the CPP, the Magdalo and Para sa Bayan," he said.

Marine Col. Ariel Querubin and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim were members of "Para sa Bayan," according to Kison, quoting intelligence reports.

He mentioned at least four other civil society groups belonging to Para sa Bayan.

"There are also business groups and politicians who have joined this group," Kison said.

Encircle Malacañang

The campaign to overthrow the Arroyo regime calls for massive protests to start in February and culminate in an "encircling" of Malacañang in the first week of May, according to a briefing paper of the police and military on the electronic documents seized from a captured Magdalo soldier two weeks ago.

The protest actions would be carried out in coordination with military strikes by rogue soldiers who, in turn, would coordinate their moves with a communist rebel group.

Should the alliance succeed, they would set up a transition government composed of representatives of the civilian and military sectors opposed to the Arroyo regime, the paper said.

The documents, which included points of agreement by the forces of the extreme Left and extreme Right and a transcript of the minutes of one of their meetings, indicated that while the threat to the Arroyo administration had abated, it was far from over, according to the briefing paper.

The military, however, believed the alliance would break up as soon as it had achieved its goal of unseating Ms Arroyo.

"They are talking despite differences in ideology under this alliance because they have a common enemy. But once they achieved their goal, their next problem is that they themselves will be fighting each other," Kison said.

No alliance

Self-exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison, however, has branded as lies the government claim that the CPP had forged an alliance with the Magdalo group of disgruntled soldiers to topple the Arroyo administration.

In a statement e-mailed from Utrecht, the Netherlands, where he has been based as a political refugee, Sison said the claim was a "futile attempt to discredit the anti-Arroyo military and police officers and personnel."

Sison, founding chair of the CPP, said if there was indeed a five-point agreement between the CPP and the group of rebel soldiers, "the parties themselves should issue the full text and not the Arroyo regime. It could be enlightening to the public and to all the military and police."

The supposed alliance between communist insurgents and military rebels prompted Ms Arroyo to declare a state of emergency on Feb. 24. It was lifted on Friday.

Sison, now the chief political consultant of the communist-led National Democratic Front, warned that the reign of terror would continue despite Ms Arroyo's lifting of the state of national emergency.

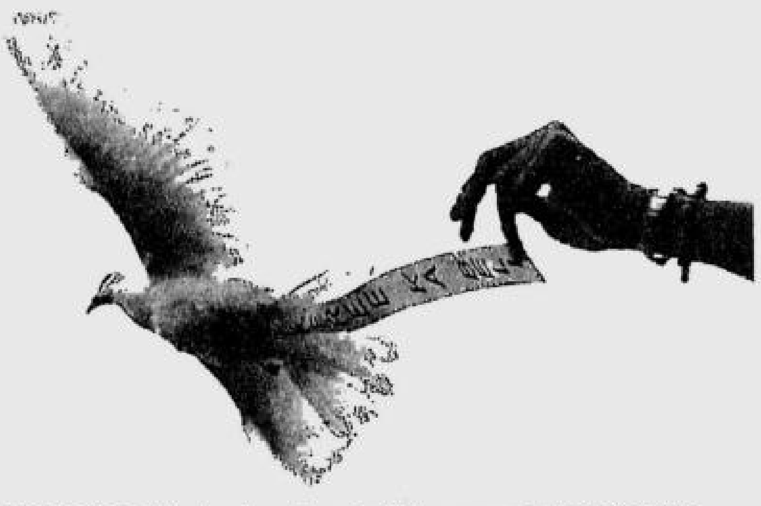
He said the Arroyo regime would continue to issue proclamations, decrees and orders for the purpose of curtailing democratic rights to prolong its hold on power and to ram through the Arroyo-De Venecia Charter change scheme. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Beltran followers sneak past Camp Crame guards

From page A1

GLORIA STEP DOWN!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY KA JOEL!
DUGANG KAADLAW, BAY!

HARVEY Rafael and Joanna Paula Virador, children of Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador, carry a cake for their father's birthday into the Batasan complex. Virador and four other party-list lawmakers, who have been charged with rebellion, are in House custody. RAFFY LERMA



MEMBERS of the Anakpawis party-list group and students of the University of the Philippines release a white dove to dramatize their demand for the release of Rep. Crispin Beltran from detention in Camp Crame. RAFFY LERMA

of the Philippine National Police headquarters and even released a dove symbolizing their desire to see the party-list leader out of detention.

The activists were eventually barred from entering the PNP General Hospital, where Beltran was staying, but their "intrusion" caught the police by surprise, prompting authorities to abruptly bar motorists and pedestrians from entering the camp at around noon.

This was the third time in two weeks that the police had to shut the gates of the PNP camp in Quezon City.

Beltran and five leftist lawmakers were charged last week with rebellion in connection with an alleged attempt to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He was arrested while leaving his farm in Bulacan province on Feb. 25. His colleagues—Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano—managed to elude arrest. They surfaced a day later at the House of Representatives.

The five lawmakers are now in the custody of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Supporters of Beltran, who has been staying in the hospital after his blood pressure shot up last week, were not immediately spotted by camp guards because they wore plain clothes. They arrived in two vehicles.

Once inside the facility, the activists, who included students from the University of the Philippines and members of Anakpawis and Beltran's congressional staff, put on red shirts marked "Free Ka Bel."

Standoff

"We were walking toward the (hospital) when the police stopped us," said Lisa Ito, Beltran's media officer.

"There was a standoff. We explained that we were bringing papers for Ka Bel. But they won't allow us in. No one was hurt. We dispersed peacefully at around 12:30 p.m.," she said.

They passed on the documents, such as the order of business in Congress, minutes of previous hearings and labor statistics, to Beltran's daughter Olivia.

A police officer said the activists were not allowed to enter the hospital as it was past visiting hours. Only family members could visit, he said.

When the gates were closed, even reporters and camp employees were not allowed in. For about 20 minutes, no one was also allowed to leave.

"They might still have companions out there," said a camp officer as people started queuing outside the Santolan gate.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson, said tight security measures were immediately put in place after the activists were seen outside the hospital.

"Crispin Beltran has supporters reported [to have planned] to bail him out of police custody," Pagdilao said.

Virador's birthday

Supporters and well-wishers were also barred from entering the House of Representatives, preventing them from singing "Happy Birthday" to Virador, who turned 39 yesterday.

Although invited to his 4 p.m. party, reporters and opposition lawmakers were locked out of the premises.

Besides media people, Virador's guest list included former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

Saying they had a short list of people who would be allowed to enter, policemen in charge of House security stopped the INQUIRER and other members of the House Press Corps who usually went to the House press office on Sunday to file their stories.

With the restrictions, Virador took consolation in his family and staff members, and the four other party-list lawmakers—Ocampo, Casiño, Mariano and Maza.

All five are restricted to the Batasan complex in Quezon City following the decision of Speaker De Venecia and the House plenary to place them under House custody to protect them from warrantless arrest.

"This is so sad," said Virador in a phone interview. He said he, too, was surprised by the action of the guards at the Batasan's main gate.

At the last minute, he decided to move his party from the garden fronting the House minority's office to somewhere near the main gate, "so that we can give food to those outside through the steel bars of the gate."

When the number of well-wishers from Bayan Muna and other militant organizations swelled to about 100 past 4 p.m., police reluctantly allowed the crews of ABS-CBN and GMA 7 to come in and to take footage.

Administration Rep. Douglas Cagas dropped by.

Still, Virador wished that the Filipino nation would continue to stand up for what is right and just and humane."

"My birthday wish: I hope that Filipinos will have a prosperous, peaceful life," said Virador, who expressed gratitude that his spouse Imelda and children—Joanna Paula, 16, and Harvey Rafael, 14—were beside him.

'Pansit, kilawin'

He pointed out that Imelda prepared a simple menu—cake, *pansit, caldereta, kilawin* and fruit juice.

The birthday celebrator would have wished for some beer or wine to toast, but he knew that alcoholic beverages were disallowed on the premises.

De Venecia repeatedly denied last week that he was willing to give up custody of the five lawmakers.

"I even extended (twice) the protective custody over the five lawmakers as part of our sympathy and commiseration with them," said De Venecia, who worked feverishly to prevent policemen from arresting the militant lawmakers while the state of national emergency was in effect. The presidential proclamation was lifted on Friday.

Big brother

De Venecia lamented that although he did everything in his power to accommodate the requests of the lawmakers he was now being accused of abandoning them.

As caretaker of the five lawmakers, the Speaker likened his new role to "*kuya*," the invisible "Big Brother" of the TV reality show "Pinoy Big Brother."

He said he had ensured the safety of the lawmakers by letting them use his office as temporary quarters.

"I bring them food ... [I have] two bathrooms in [my] office—one for men and one for women—that are fairly modern and clean. So I'm like 'Pinoy Big Brother' taking care of five housemates," De Venecia said.

"This is the first time that congressmen are in the protective custody of the Speaker," he told reporters in San Fabian, Pangasinan, on Saturday.

De Venecia said that if the court would issue warrants for the representatives' arrest, he would turn them over to the police.

By taking custody of the lawmakers, the government showed the nation and the Filipino people that "no congressman is above the law," he said.

"That is why the preliminary investigation will continue and only the court will decide whether or not to issue warrants of arrest. If [the warrants are] issued, I have to turn them over," De Venecia said.

While representatives cannot be arrested while Congress is in session, this cannot be observed in the case of the five lawmakers because they are facing rebellion charges that carry a penalty of more than six years, he said. *With a report from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

After lifting of 1017, war of attrition begins

From page A1

armed attack against the government." Other than preemptive action, the President will be hard put to claim any other achievement.

Coup card

The plot uncovered by the government marked the escalation by the regime opponents (described by the government as a "tactical alliance" of the extreme Left, military adventurers and opposition politicians) of their campaign to oust the President to the point of using the coup d'etat option. They played their last card.

The abortion of the plot of Feb. 24 crushed that option. Proclamation No. 1017 also marked the escalation of the government's response to the challenges mounted by its opponents since July last year—starting with Cabinet defections, calls for street action and another people power.

Underestimating GMA

The Feb. 24 plot was the first serious plot, with military participation, staged since the Oakwood military mutiny in 2003. In response to this escalation, the administration played its own card of last resort—exercise of emergency powers.

In declaring a state of national emergency, the administration sent the signal that it would no longer tolerate being a flogging beast and that the "state has the right to defend itself."

It appears that the regime opponents have overestimated their capacity to mount a successful campaign to topple Ms Arroyo, with military participation as the key element of success. They also underestimated the willingness of the regime to use emergency powers.

Seizing the initiative

When the President declared a state of emergency, she seized the initiative and turned the tide against her opponents. The declaration was unexpected. It disarmed her opponents, catching them and the public by surprise.

The immediate effect was it brought an immediate cessation to street agitation following the arrest of some activists and the raids on some newspaper offices tagged by the administration as having published inflammatory stories fanning rebellion and insurrection.

Apart from the immediate result of nipping the coup in the bud, the presidential action resulted in a number of political developments:

Showdown with media

First, it provoked the first and most serious showdown between the Philippine press and the administration.

Second, the proclamation disclosed rifts inside the Armed Forces, highlighted by the loyalty crisis a week ago at Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, clouding with uncertainty the loyalty of the military chain of command to the civil government.

Third, the Bonifacio episode shattered certain assumptions. The episode in which Marine Col. Ariel Querubin led a move for a of Marine breakaway so that they could join the Feb. 24 rally to declare their withdrawal of support from the President was expected to spark a people power rising. The sudden relief of Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda had provoked Querubin's protest.

Romantic assumptions

Although the Bonifacio incident revealed cracks in the chain of command, the proclamation of national emergency produced a more important revelation.

The revelation is that, during the test of loyalty, when the President crucially needed military support to defend her government, the military—albeit divided—stood by her.

Although the support of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga was uncertain up to Feb. 23, when he was asked by Querubin and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, commander of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, to back their withdrawal move, Senga later reportedly rejected the overtures.

On the other hand, regime opponents pinned their hopes on their assumption that the chain of command would crack from the Lim and Querubin withdrawal move. It turned out that their expectations and assumption that they could force a shift of military support to their side were highly inflated and overly romantic.

Where goes civil society?

Most disappointed were the civil society components in the plot. They pinned their hope of bringing down the President on the military shift. But the shift did not come.

They and their soldier partners in conspiracy had played the coup card. It didn't work. They would have to revise their options after their street campaign for the President's resignation failed.

Following the proclamation, the President regained the initiative.

The showdown between her and media was a revelation. Proclamation No. 1017 failed to cow the media despite the raids on the Daily Tribune and the deployment of police and soldiers at some TV stations and threats of closure of offending networks. When the President took on the media, the main target of her crackdown, she overplayed her hand.

Now, war of attrition

The crackdown forced media to close ranks to fight the attack on press freedom.

Political forces which feared revocation of their liberties rallied behind the media. Their support was not entirely because of their conviction and passion for civil liberties. Part of it was self-serving.

Without a free media, they would have no platform to express their opposition to the regime. They use media to shield themselves, more than media can use them to protect the freedom of the press.

Even though 1017 has been lifted, the war with the media continues. The administration is now focusing on specified action involving charges of inciting to sedition against journalists who continue to be critical.

The war of attrition has just begun.

NBI says 'Wowowee' probe almost done

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) will release either today or tomorrow the results of the probe it conducted into the "Wowowee" stampede at the PhilSports Arena that left 71 people dead on Feb. 4.

"With the affidavits of 12 ABS-CBN officials and personalities, which were submitted on Friday night, we are now evaluating and wrapping up the investigation on the stampede," NBI National Capital Region (NCR) chief Ruel Lasala said in an interview yesterday.

Not involved in preparations

In their affidavits, "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame and ABS-CBN top official Charo Santos-Concio told the NBI that they were not involved in preparations for the game show's first anniversary celebration which led to a stampede.

"I am a mere talent of ABS-CBN and I am not involved in the various logistics and preparation for the show," Revillame said in his affidavit.

He added that his sole function in the program was "mere hosting" and his involvement was limited to the creative and aesthetic aspects of the show.

The "Wowowee" host also confirmed previous reports that he visited the PhilSports Arena days before the stampede, but he clarified that he "was not able to acquire the actual number of people who were assembling within the premises since the areas (he) went to and visited were select and limited."

Santos-Concio, on the other hand, said she was not involved "in any aspect of the day-to-day operations of the many entertainment programs produced, procured or being prepared by the TV Production Department and the operation of subsidiaries that form part of the Entertainment Group."

Neither did she take part in the planning of "Wowowee's" first anniversary show, her affidavit read. She added that she was only informed of the finalized general plans in a meeting.

Lasala said that affidavits were also submitted to the bureau by ABS-CBN network security head Rene Luspo and the 13 Goldlink agency security guards deployed in the PhilSports Arena.

Crowd was unruly

Luspo stated that despite doing everything in his capacity to prevent the tragedy from occurring, he was unable to do so because of the unruly crowd and the lack of police assistance.

The security guards, on the other hand, said that they were forced to close the steel gate to the PhilSports Arena at 6:45 a.m. on Feb. 4 after "Wowowee" fans started jostling each other.

Lasala said ABS-CBN cooperated fully in the bureau's investigation and submitted copies of "Wowowee" episodes from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3 and raw footages of the incident.

"A few seconds of the raw footage revealed that the guards were not able to control the mammoth crowd during the stampede," he said.

"The footage showed that there was a lack of crowd management and control to prevent the tragedy from taking place," the NBI official added.

Police ready sketches of blast suspects

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE POLICE ARE PREPARING THE sketches of at least three suspects in the two minor explosions which rocked police offices in Pasig City on Friday morning.

"Witnesses saw three men on motorcycles going around the area minutes before the blasts. We are still waiting for the sketches (of the suspects)," Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino said yesterday.

He said they were also still waiting for the Philippine National Police (PNP) Crime Laboratory to determine what kind of explosives were used.

Minor incident

PNP officials had dismissed the blasts, which happened minutes before President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the lifting of the state of emergency, as a minor incident.

Still, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) yesterday reminded the five police districts in the metropolis to be alert in securing police offices not only because of the explosions, but because of recent attacks on police detachments in the provinces by alleged New People's Army members.

'Powerful firecrackers'

Police did not recover any parts of a typical bomb, like wiring, batteries or shrapnel, at the crime scene, leading some officials to believe that the explosives could have been "very powerful firecrackers."

NCRPO investigation chief Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, meanwhile, said the explosives could not have been a pillbox, as earlier suspected.

"The explosives used were a little stronger than a pillbox," Rojas said.

Friday's blasts rocked the Payanig Compound, just beside the Metro Walk restaurant strip on Meralco Avenue.

The compound houses the offices of the Regional Special Action Unit, the District Mobile Group, the Special Weapons and Tactics and the Traffic Enforcement Group. The blasts did little damage and injured no one.

But save for saying the suspects apparently just wanted to scare people and not harm anyone, the police have yet to determine their motive.

Theories like a possible land dispute, a row between policemen or a riot among teenagers have been put forward, but the police would not confirm anything.

METROBRIEFS

Sex boosters seized

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) seized last Friday several boxes of medication that supposedly revved up one's sex life in a mall in Manila. "These sex enhancers are not registered at the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) and could cause heart attacks and other complications when taken," NBI National Capital Region (NCR) chief Ruel Lasala said. NBI NCR agents seized at least three boxes containing P50,000 worth of sex enhancers, slimming and anti-allergy capsules from three stalls at the Good Earth Plaza on Rizal Avenue, Manila. NBI NCR agent Rey Tabbu said sex enhancers such as Cialis, Shuntong, Androsole, Choco Ball, Viager, Sex Drop, Black Leopard, Black Diety, India Spray and Sixty Minutes were confiscated from the stores during the operation. Tabbu said the store owners sold the products at P50 to P500 each. Charges for violation of BFAD laws and special laws on counterfeit drugs will be filed against store proprietors Amy Ong, Eric Chan, Nita Chan and Dara Ho, the NBI agent said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

False alarm in Makati

RESIDENTS of Cabanillas Street in Barangay La Paz, Makati City locked themselves in their houses for nearly an hour yesterday afternoon after someone found a grenade in a nearby area. "We were all afraid … we panicked because we were afraid that it would explode," said Antonio Manabat, 42, one of the residents. The grenade, however, turned out to be a dud. A resident had found the explosive on a vacant lot at the corner of Pablo Ocampo Extension and Cabanillas Street. After reporting it to the police, members of the Special Weapons and Tactics-Explosives Ordnance Division went to the area. Police, however, said the MK2 fragmentation grenade was in no danger of exploding because all the explosive substances inside had been taken out.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Fire prevention seminars

MARCH being Fire Prevention Month, firefighters in Manila have started conducting seminars and lectures on fire safety and prevention for students and residents. They have also given out reading materials that list fire safety tips. According to fire officials, electrical problems and unattended candles were the most common causes of fires in Metro Manila. Others were open-flame cooking, heat combustion, bonfires and flammable liquids. The Manila government has meanwhile stepped up its inspection of business establishments, particularly old dormitories and boarding houses, which are considered "fire traps."

Tina G. Santos

Quake indeed to blame

EXPERTS yesterday confirmed that the collapse of a wall around a construction site in Makati City last Friday was caused by a quake which shook Metro Manila and a heavy downpour two days earlier. When the wall beside the TRAG (The Residences at Greenbelt) project on Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) fell down, it took with it four electrical posts of the Manila Electric Co., causing a power outage in the area. Engr. Andres Castillo, TRAG project manager, had said in a statement that the wall collapsed because of the 5.7 magnitude quake felt last Wednesday. The quake, he added, resulted in a leaking water pipe which softened the soil and made the wall collapse. His finding was confirmed by structural and geotechnical consultants of the TRAG project who inspected the area. The consultants, meanwhile, said that the collapse "did not in any way affect the structural integrity" of the 48-floor Laguna Tower, one of TRAG's three towers, which is near the site where the incident happened.

Tarra V. Quismundo

Torres; 72

APOLONIA I. Torres died on March 4 at the age of 72. She is survived by her children Emilson, Eduardo, Edna, Erico, Emma, Jose, Elenita and Frisca. Her body lies in their residence at 3238 Malolos Street, Bo. Obrero in Tondo, Manila and will be transferred to Barangay Tangal, Lubang in Occidental Mindoro on March 8. Interment will be announced later.

Training seminars

THE DE LA SALLE-College of Saint Benilde, through the School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies and the Post-secondary Education Network-International, will hold a learning exchange visit from March 6-9. Experts from the New York-based National Technical Institute for the Deaf of the Rochester Institute of Technology will conduct a series of training seminars for deaf students and their parents, counseling professionals, and teachers working with the deaf. Participation in the seminars is by invitation only. For inquiries, please call 526-7441 local 239 or e-mail zabalae@dls-csb.edu.ph.

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TUP student dies of hazing injuries

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI POLICE HAVE TAKEN INTO custody a student of the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) for his possible involvement in the death of another student allegedly due to hazing.

Clark Anson Silverio, 18, a second year mechanical engineering student of TUP Manila, was declared dead on arrival at the Manila Sanitarium Hospital in Pasay City last Friday afternoon. An initial police report said that he had died of hematoma and severe contusions, mostly on his thighs.

Silverio had been brought to the hospital by four teenagers who said that they had found him unconscious, possibly drunk, and lying on the street. One of those who had taken him to the hospital, Edmar Gipan, another TUP student, was picked up by the police after Silverio died.

Investigation showed that the two were among 20 teenagers who went to a warehouse on Guatemala Street in Barangay San Isidro, Makati on Friday morning. The warehouse caretaker, a certain Alma, told the police that it was the fourth time in several weeks that a group of boys and girls had gone there to hold initiation rites.

She told the police that she saw some members of the group, one of whom she identified as Gipan, carrying planks of wood. "After I finished cleaning, I saw that a group of teens were (hitting) others. I heard (some people) shouting, groaning, screaming and crying," Alma said in her statement to the police.

LIA ANDREA Ramos shows the winning form that helped her land the Binibining Pilipinas-Universe 2006 title. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Beauty pageant winners picked

By Armin Adina

CROWD FAVORITES BAGGED THE THREE major titles at the 2006 Binibining Pilipinas pageant held last Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

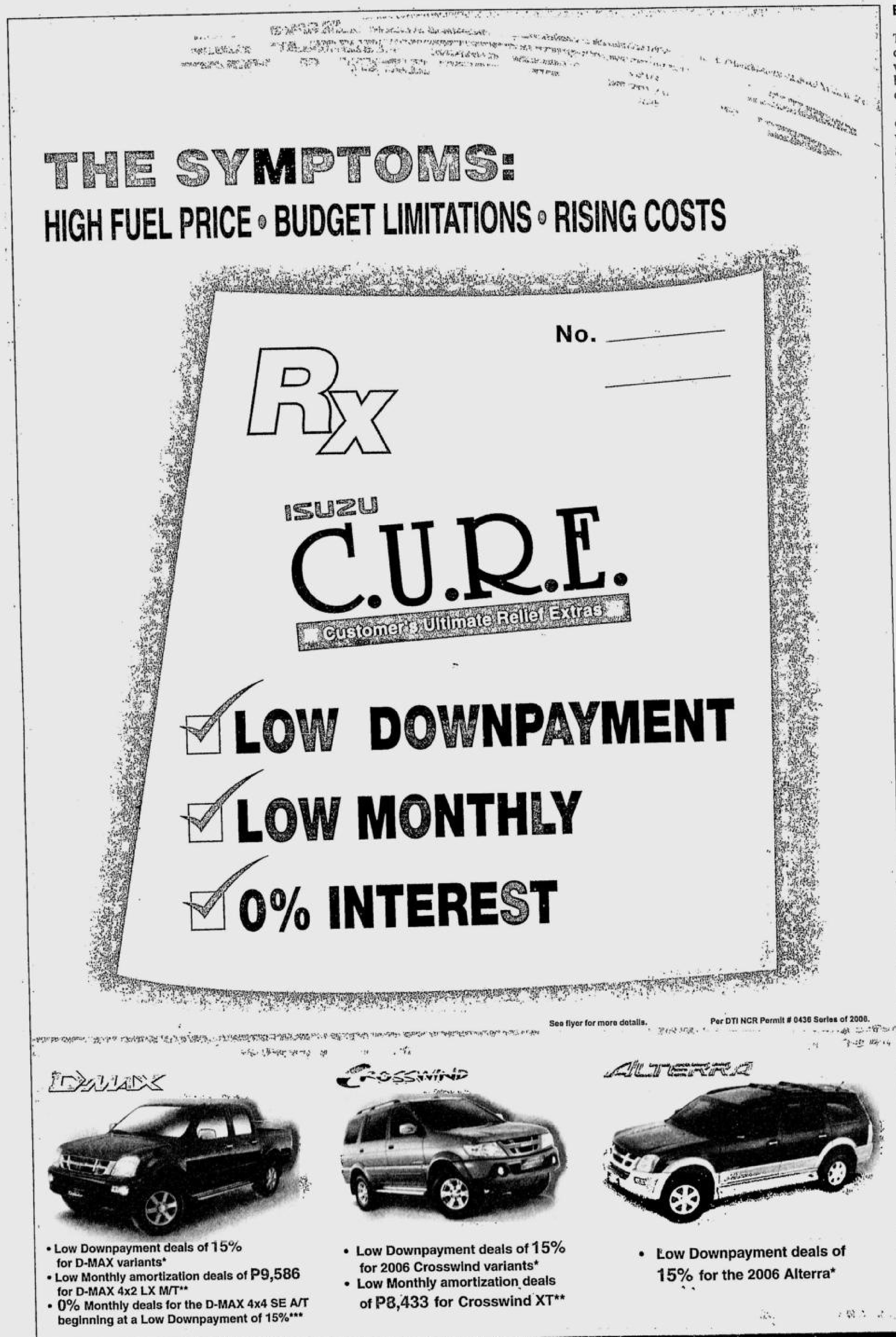
The spectators erupted in screams as Denille Lou Valmonte, 24, received the Binibining Pilipinas-International title from 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman.

Ana Maris Igpit, another crowd pleaser, was crowned Binibining Pilipinas-World by previous title holder, Carlene Aguilar. She was also proclaimed Best in Long Gown.

The Binibining Pilipinas-Universe title, on the other hand, went to Lia Andrea Ramos. The 25-year-old political science graduate of the University of the Philippines also bagged numerous awards—Miss Photogenic, Best in Swimsuit, Miss Philippine Airlines and Mane and Tail's Best Hair.

First runner-up Rosalyn Santiago, 25, earlier entered the semis when she was proclaimed Smart Texter's Choice for garnering the most number of votes cast through text.

Jeanne Bernadette Bello, 22, completed the lineup as second runner-up. Twenty-four hopefuls competed in this year's competition.



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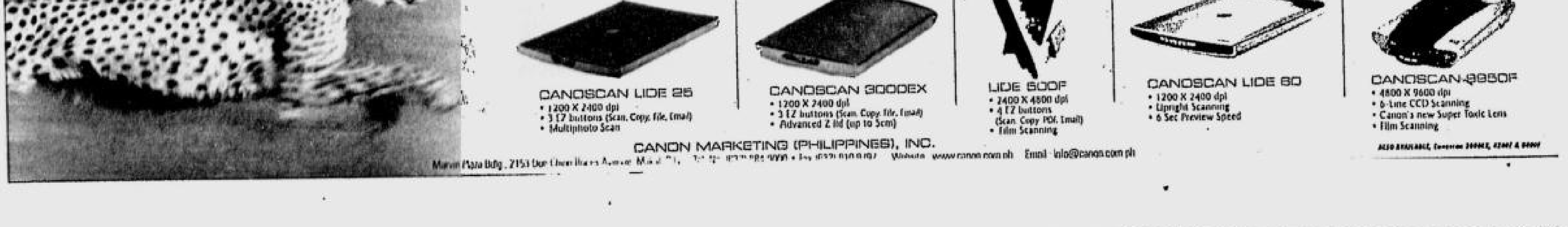

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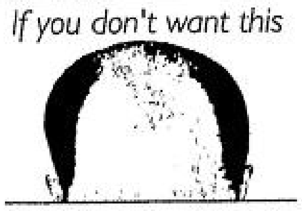

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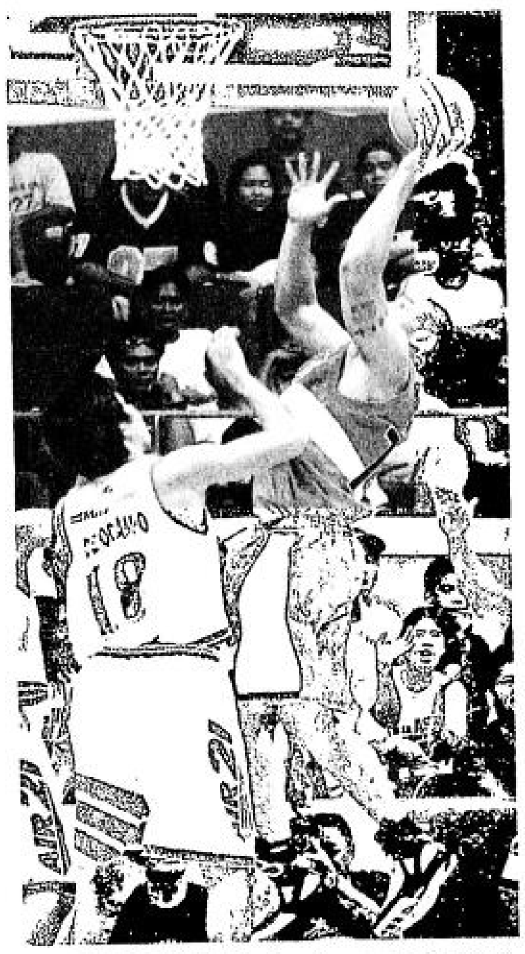

COCA-COLA'S Ali Peek makes a one-handed shot off Air21's Yancy de Ocampo. RYAN LIM

Coke Tigers' snarl back in demolition of Express

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)

4:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realtors vs Purefoods Chunkee Giants
7:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text Phone Pals vs Barangay Ginebra Kings

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA HAS FOUND THE CHEMISTRY the Tigers missed in the last two conferences.

Playing like a well-oiled machine, the Tigers demolished the Air21 Express, 104-83, to kick off their Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup campaign on a high note last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Billy Mamaril hit a pair of big shots while Johnny Abarrientos summoned his deadly form to key the Tigers' breakaway in a span bridging the third and fourth periods.

But it was Ali Peek and John Arigo who held the Tigers together with their unselfish plays.

"I'm not talking about the way they scored but on how they created opportunities for their teammates," said Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis. "Such is the essence of basketball.

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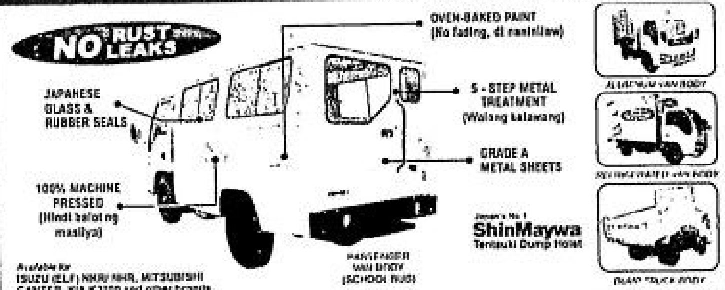

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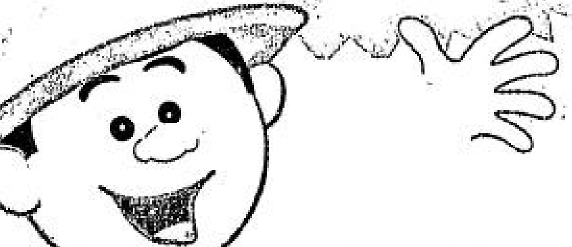

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WNC, Perpetual forge showdown for students cage title

LEGAZPI CITY—WEST NEGROS COLLEGE brought down National University, 77-61, late Saturday to arrange a showdown with defending champion University of Perpetual Help Dalta System for the 60th National Students Basketball Championship at the Albay Astrodome here.

The Altas took the other finals berth following a 76-64 dumping of Angeles University Foundation, 76-64, in a game marred by highly physical plays and a near walkout by the Great Danes.

Employing the zone and shooting almost flawlessly, the WNC Mustangs, last year's University Games champions, dominated the third quarter to build a 57-41 lead.

Reed-thin Ely Olarte starred for the Mustangs in that decisive stretch, scoring 11 of his 20 points.

When the Bulldogs double-teamed Olarte, Vengie Vergara, who scored 18 of his 20 points from the three-point range, and Sonny Abaring picked up the slack to preserve the win—and secure WNC's first finals appearance in eight years.

The Mustangs actually had already beaten the Altas in the eliminations, 68-62.

"Maybe the boys wants to prove something after winning the University Games last year," said WNC coach Elvis Atinado.

The Mustangs ruled the UniGames at the expense of St. Francis of Assisi College.

AUF lost Allan Hicban, who was banished from the court for attempting to punch Perpetual's Darryl Mendoza with 7:22 left in the second quarter. The referees' decision, however, did not sit well with AUF manager Nida Sunga, who ordered her players to walk out. In the end, though, the team was persuaded to resume play..

Meanwhile, Gov. Gonzalez, provincial board member Ralph Andes and Mayor Rosal sent messages of condolences to BAP secretary general Graham Lim, whose father died last Thursday after a lingering illness.

Asistio rules Samsung grand finals by three

LIPA CITY—TONLITS ASISTIO CLOSED OUT with an even-par 72 despite a bogey-bogey finish yesterday to rule the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour grand finals by three shots at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club here.

A crucial two-shot swing on No. 7 was all Asistio needed to pull away from his Manila Southwoods teammate Michael Bibat, who finished with a 75 after a birdie on the last hole.

"I just played my game after that two-shot swing on No. 7," said the 16-year-old Asistio, who followed up his birdie on the seventh with two more birdies on Nos. 10 and 14 to pull away by six strokes.

Asistio, tied with Bibat and one-up on Boyet Saragoza at the start of the round, wound up with a 292 total. Bibat was second at 295.

Saragoza, the halfway leader in this event sponsored by Samsung and featured the championship division winners of the various legs, never recovered from a disastrous start and skied to a 79 and 300 for third place.

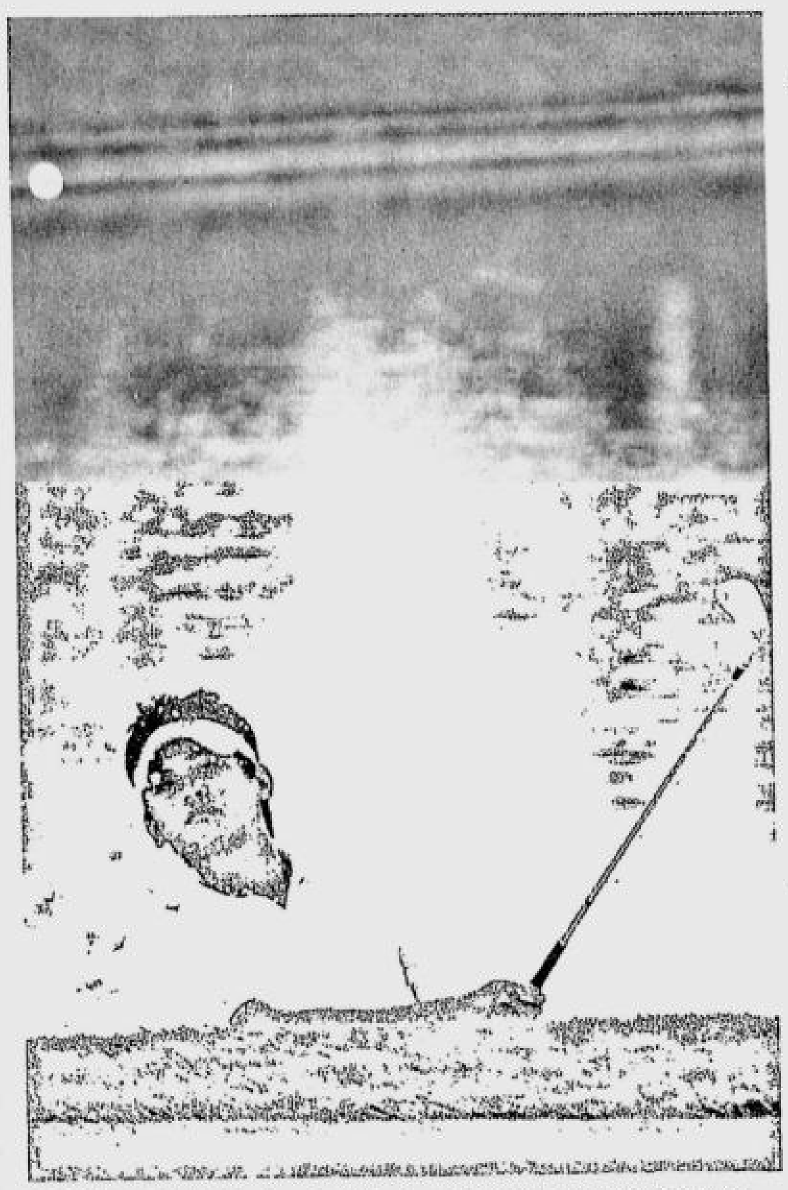
Erwin Vinluan also limped with an 80 to finish fourth with 306, while Jong Laput wound up with a 309 after a 76.

Boy Blue Ocampo, head of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group, awarded the trophy and a top-of-the-line Samsung cell phone unit to Asistio during the awards rites which coincided with the launch of the fifth Samsung Tour beginning next month.

Meanwhile, Rodel Mangulabnan rallied with a 72 for a 149 and turned back Shean Bedi (77-153) for the Class A crown in the men's side of the event backed by Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Bill Yoon cruised to victory in Class B with an 81-157, while Emil Alviar III romped away with the Class C crown with an 83 for 163. Raul Ilagan topped Class D with 177.

Beverly Mendoza of St. Paul Pasig carded a 77 and 149 to beat Crystal Superal (78-151) by two strokes in the ladies' Class A. Marian Woo shot an 82 and a 170 to hold off Lyn Mangulabnan for the Class B title, while Elizabeth Salazar made 100 for a 194 and won by four over Jocelyn Catan (98-198) in Class C.



TONLITS Asistio blasts out of the deep bunker in front of the 18th hole of Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa City. JUN RAPANAN

Arellano, St. Francis in NCRAA crown duel

GAMES TODAY
(*San Andres gym*)
10 a.m.—PMI vs PUP (women)
11:30 a.m.—Olivarez vs Arellano (boys)
1 p.m.—Arellano vs St. Francis (men)

ORLANDO DAROYA delivered the winning basket and Arellano University capitalized on two turnovers by De La Salle-Dasmariñas in the endgame to pull off an 87-83 triumph in their Final Four showdown yesterday in the 13th NCRAA men's basketball tourney at the Pasay Sports Complex.

The Flaming Arrows, who joined the league only last year, set up a best-of-three title clash with the more experienced St. Francis of Assisi Doves starting today at the San Andres gym.

St. Francis beat Polytechnic University of the Philippines twice in to reach the finals. The Doves crushed the Maroons, 91-74, last Friday and then repeated with a 75-62 win yesterday.

It will be the Doves' 11th finals appearance under coach Gabby Velasco, who boasts of six titles.

Gio Ciriacruz fired a game-high 24 points for the Arrows, while Daroya hit 21 points.

JODY Coseteng (inset) finishes with a flourish at the Subic raceway.

2006 bikathon adopts 'Padyak Pinoy' theme

THE 2006 TOUR PILIPINAS TAKES ON A MORE nationalistic image following the adoption of the theme "Padyak Pinoy" for the April 20-30 race.

"Because the Tour is undoubtedly a Philippine tradition for more than half a century, we at Dos-1 feel 'Padyak Pinoy' as theme would make it even more Filipino," said Dos-1 president Gary Cayton.

The bikathon carried the theme "Golden Tour" when the organizing Dynamics Outsource Solutions Inc.'s (Dos-1) held it last year. The fabled event celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005.

The Tour, featuring 80 cyclists vying for more than P4 million in total prizes, will again have 10 stages spread over 11 days this summer. To be supervised by the Philippine National Cycling Association headed by former Eagle of the Mountain Paquito Rivas and sanctioned by the PhilCycling, the race will cover more than 1,700 kilometers in Luzon with stops in at least seven key cities.

The Tour's stages—Stage 1: Quezon City to Cabanatuan (April 20); Stage 2: Cabanatuan-Olongapo (April 21); Stage 3: Olongapo-Dagupan (April 22); Stage 4: Dagupan-Vigan (April 23); Stage 5: Vigan-Baguio (April 24); Stage 6: Baguio-Baguio (April 26); Stage 7: Baguio-Angeles City (April 27); Stage 8: Tagaytay-Tagaytay (April 28); Stage 9: Tagaytay-Tagaytay ITT (April 29); Stage 10: Manila criterium race (April 30).

RP dance athletes strut stuff Saturday

TO MARK ITS 10TH YEAR, THE DANCE SPORT Council of the Philippines will host the 2006 DSCP 1st Quarter Ranking and Competition at the Philsports Arena on Saturday.

DSCP president Becky Garcia said dance athletes will strut their stuff in the juvenile, junior, youth, senior, grades and special events in the Latin and Standard disciplines.

This will also be part of the country's preparation for the Doha Asian Games in December.

Five International Dance Sport Federation adjudicators from Asia and Europe are arriving to officiate at the competition sponsored by San Miguel Corp., Petron BPI-Mastercard, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Pagcor, Joey 92.3 Rhythm, Water Zone, Savannah Moon and Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

For ticket inquiries, call 635-0116.

Coseteng clinches 8th touring car plum

SUBIC—SAN MIGUEL-ERG ALcotonic driver Jody Coseteng came up with his best performance this season to clinch the overall crown of the Philippine Touring Car Championship 2005 yesterday at the Subic International Raceway here.

Coseteng topped the morning race over Louis Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA before switching places with Ramirez in the 13-lap afternoon race to top the series duly sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

It was the eighth touring car title for Coseteng since making a circuit racing comeback in 1998. He finished with 279 points.

"I'd like to thank the whole team, they did a great job throughout the season," he said.

Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA and Carlos Anton of MP Turbo provided the day's most dramatic moment when they figured in a collision, forcing clerk-of-course Rolen Paulino to restart the race.

Kookie Ramirez finished overall runner-up with 206 points.

Dennis Uy of Velocity Motors-Conocoracing Team and Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports/Malayan Automasters Touring Car Team ended up third and fourth, respectively.

All set for World Cup of football

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT IS STILL FIVE MONTHS AWAY, BUT EVERYthing is now in readiness for this year's World Cup of football. This shows that host Germany is more than capable of staging the biggest single sporting event on Earth.

I saw on CNN last Saturday the ultra-modern Berlin Olympic Stadium, where the championship game will be held in July. And I also learned that some 12,000 well-trained personnel have been tasked to handle the security aspect of this widely followed tournament.

Football is the most popular sport in the world and is often called the "universal language."

Next only to the Olympic Games, the World Cup is played in close to 200 countries around the world, mostly in Europe, the traditional home of football; and in South America, where its chief exponent is multititled Brazil which won the last World Cup in 2002 in Korea. The World Cup is held every four years under the auspices of the international football federation (Fifa), which was founded in Paris by seven European nations in 1904. Fifa is based in Zurich.

Although there are millions of football players and fans worldwide, Filipinos are not fascinated with the sport because they find it dull and boring to watch. Aside from the fact that a football game takes too long to finish (more than two hours, not counting the halftime break), a game would sometimes end in a scoreless draw. Thus, local fans prefer, without question, the fast-paced sport of basketball where the players literally fly hither and yon at every second, at every opportunity.

The first ever World Cup was held in Uruguay in 1930. Its inventors were Frenchmen Henri Delaunay and Jules Rimet, after whom the famous trophy was named. Rimet was the president of the French Football Federation and Fifa president from 1920 to 1954 while Delaunay was secretary of the FFF from 1919 until his death in 1956.

The original Jules Rimet trophy was designed by Italian sculptor Silvio Gazzaniga of the Bertoni goldsmiths of Milan. Its design was selected from among 53 proposals submitted by entries from seven countries. The trophy is made of solid 18 carat gold, standing 14 inches high and weighing 11 lb. While on exhibit in London, it was stolen just days before the start of the 1966 World Cup, only to be discovered by a dog named Pickles under a hedge in a suburban garden.

The trophy was stolen again in 1983 from its permanent home in Brazil and has never been found. Many believed that the thieves melted the gold trophy. The Brazilian Football Association replaced it with a replica.

In 1990, when Germany won its third World Cup, it was not able to keep the new trophy as current regulations require that it must remain in Fifa's permanent possession.. Now, World Cup champions are presented with a gold-plated replica.

The benefits a host country gain from hosting the World Cup are incalculable. When South Korea hosted the championship in 2002, the government was sundered by violent demonstrations and labor unrest. But when the South Korean team surprised the world by winning game after game against the highly regarded and star-studded European squads, the South Korean people were inspired in a way their government could not imagine was possible. Millions of South Koreans went out into the streets dancing and singing, celebrating the victories of their team. The turmoil in South Korea came to a halt, all because of their football team.

* * *

'JAWO' TURNS 60: **I am taking this opportunity to greet former senator Robert Jaworski, one of the country's greatest basketball players, a happy birthday in advance.**

Born in Baguio City on March 8, 1946, the 6-foot-1 Jaworski is the only son of Polish-American Teodore Jaworski and Iluminada Salazar. Sporting the popular moniker, "Big J," he first amazed the basketball fans in the UAAP in 1960 while playing for the UE Warriors coached by the legendary Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan. Jaworski became a household name as a key player of powerhouse teams like Yco and Meralco (in the Micaa) and Toyota and Ginebra (in the PBA). He was also a mainstay of several Philippine teams in the World Basketball Championships, the Olympics, ABC and Asian Games. As a playing coach, he won four PBA titles and mentored a PBA selection to a silver-medal finish in the 1990 Beijing Asiad.

Dableo, 8 others lead La Union Open chess

Standings after the sixth round: 5.0 pts.—IM R. Dableo, IM R. Bitoon, FM O. Dimakiling, FM W. So, NM A. Vasquez, NM R. Tolentino, NM E. Senador, R. Legaspi, A. Branzuela; 4.5 pts.—IM C. Garma, IM B. Nadera, NM R. Andador, N. Ubanan; 4.0—IM R. Bancod, FM J. Sales, FM A. Pacis, NM D. Laylo, NM R. Nolte, NM M. Gotel, NM R. Llavanes, NM M. Maga, NM N. Alisangco, NM R. Amper, NM E. Agagon, E. Gatus, J. Balico, R. Panopio, R. Gonzales, J. Mantupar, R. Lagman, A. Cantonjos, D. Ballecer

SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION—Top seed GM-candidate Ronald Dableo defeated Rodolfo Panopio Jr. in 31 moves of an English Opening to keep a share of lead with eight others after the sixth round of the fifth La Union Open chess championships at the Diego Silang Hall of Provincial Capitol building Sunday.

Dableo, an Air Force enlisted personnel under the wings of Col. Alejandro Camagay, now has 5.0 points on four wins and two draws.

He shares top spot with IM Richard Bitoon, Fide master Oliver Dimakiling, FM Wesley So, NM Andrew Vasquez, NM Rustom Tolentino, NM Emmanuel Senador, Rhobel Legaspi and Ali Branzuela in the event sponsored by the La Union provincial government headed by Gov. Victor F. Ortega and San Fernando Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega and backed by Villa Estrella Resort Hotel.

In other matches, Bitoon agreed to a 15-move draw with So; Dimakiling also drew in 15 with Vasquez; Tolentino upset former RP Open champ NM Darwin Laylo; Senador crushed NM Michael Gotel; Legaspi beat Jerome Balico; and Branzuela nipped NM Mirabeau Maga.

The top 13 players after the seven-round Swiss system eliminations will be joined in the knockout format by seeded players GM Mark Paragua, GM Eugene Torre and defending champion GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. The champion's purse is P80,000.

Gonzales draws foe, finishes tied for third

FINAL STANDINGS: 7.5—GM Slavko Cikak (Sweden); 7.0—GM Manuel Rivas, Pastor (Spain); 6.5—IM JAYSON GONZALES (PHILIPPINES), GM Oleg Romanishin (Ukraine), GM Carlos Matamoros Franco (Ecuador), IM Manuel Perez Candelario (Spain), IM Ibragim Khamrakulov (Spain), IM Marko Tratar (Slovakia)

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASter Jayson Gonzales settled for a quick 20-move draw in a Queen's Pawn game with fellow IM Ismael Teran Alvarez of Spain in the final round to finish in a tie for third place with four others in the IX Open International Malaga de Ajedrez Saturday in Malaga, Spain.

Gonzales finished with 6.5 points to be in the company of top seed Grandmaster Oleg Romanishin, GM Carlos Franco and IMs Perez Candelario, Ibragim Khamrakulov and Marko Tratar.

GM Nelson Mariano II also split the point with Bulgarian IM Jordan Ivanov in 29 moves of a Sicilian Chameleon to finish with 5.5 points.

Swedish GM Slavko Cicak settled for a draw with Romanishin to score 7.5 points and take the championship trophy. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Coke Tigers' snarl back in rout of Express

From page A25

They (Peek and Arigo) attracted the defense and got everybody in the team involved."

Arigo tossed in 28 points and grabbed nine rebounds while Peek had 21 points and 11 rebounds. Mamaril also finished in double-double figures with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Rookie Denok Miranda and Dale Singson added 12 and 10 points, respectively.

In the second game, Nic Belasco showed his former team what it was missing, tying a career-high of 30 points to lead Alaska to a 103-90 triumph over San Miguel.

Belasco, traded during the conference break for Brandon Cablay, made 12 of his 18 attempts from the field in 33 minutes en route to his total, which tied a personal best he scored as a San Miguel standout.

Cablay wasn't as successful in his Beermen debut, finishing with just three points in 28 minutes, taking just four attempts from the field and making one.

Mamaril followed up his three-point play off Mark Telan with a 15-footer as the Tigers took a 75-70 edge while holding the Express scoreless in the closing minutes of the third.

A long jumper by Abarrientos gave the Tigers an 81-72 spread before Rafi Reavis, Peek and Arigo put the outcome beyond doubt with an assortment of shots inside the lane.

The scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 104—Arigo 28, Peek 21, Mamaril 14, Miranda 12, Singson 10, Reavis 6, Antonio 6, Abarrientos 5, Wainwright 2, Morano 0.

AIR21 83—Ritualo 29, De Ocampo 11, Canaleta 10, Tubid 10, De Ocampo R. 8, Telan 6, Arboleda 3, Bernardo 2, Se 2, Fran 2, Dacla 0.

Quarters: 25-26, 49-53, 77-70, 104-83.

Second Game

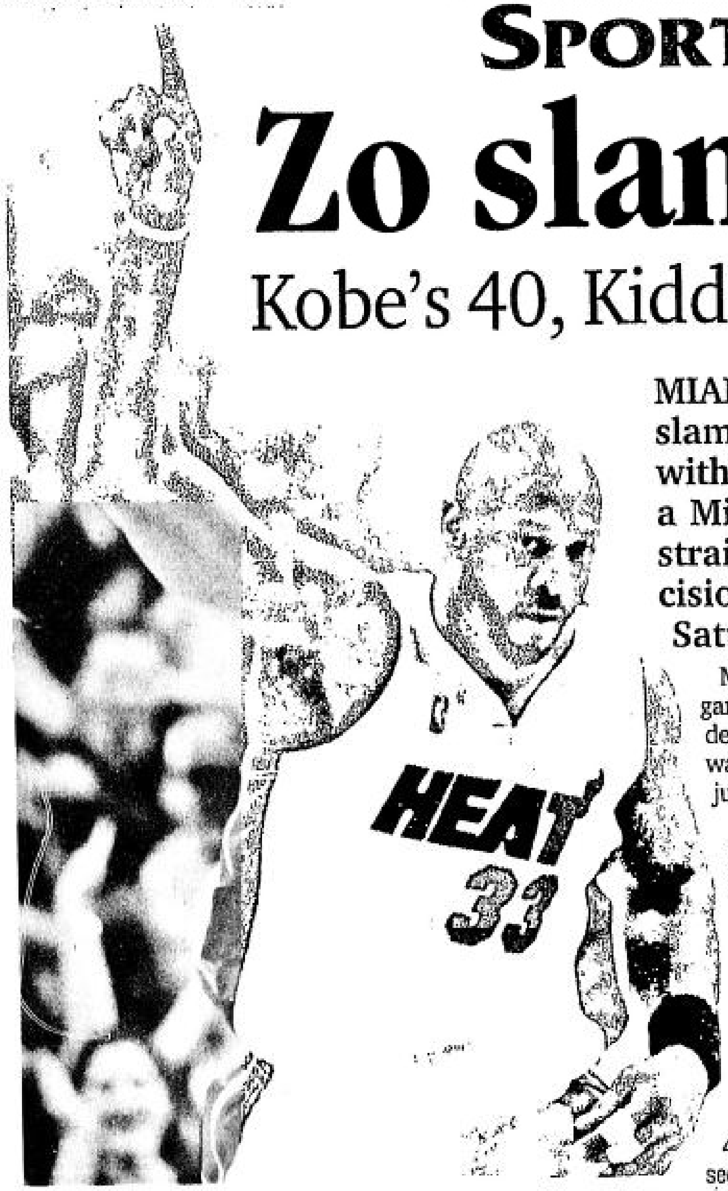
ALASKA 103—Belasco 30, Allado 20, Dela Cruz 14, Wilson 10, Cortez 9, Thoss 8, Hugnatan 5, Cariaso 4, Bajar 3, Laure 0.

SAN MIGUEL 90—Seigle 25, Hontiveros 19, Ildefonso 12, Racela 10, Calaguio 10, Peña 9, Cablay 3, Gonzales 2, Kong 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 17-18, 43-34, 75-61, 103-90

Zo slam downs Hawks

Kobe's 40, Kidd's triple double power Lakers, Nets



MOURNING: Big-time dunk REUTERS

MIAMI—ALONZO MOURNING slammed the game-winning dunk with 1.8 seconds remaining to cap a Miami Heat rally for an eighth straight victory, a 95-93 home decision over the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday.

Mourning's dunk gave the Heat its first lead of the game as Miami recovered from a 17-point deficit despite the absence of guard Dwyane Wade, who watched the game from the bench due to a wrist injury.

To make matters worse for the hosts, Shaquille O'Neal fouled out with 3:45 left for Miami, leaving the Heat without their top two scorers.

"You have to win some games on nights when maybe you don't have a lot of things going for you," Riley said.

In East Rutherford, Jason Kidd scored 14 points and had 13 rebounds and 15 assists for a triple double as New Jersey beat Toronto, 105-100, in overtime.

Vince Carter had 31 points and Richard Jefferson added 30 for the Nets.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 40 points and had plenty of help from his teammates as the Lakers defeated Detroit, 105-94.

One night after becoming the youngest player in the NBA to score 16,000 points, Bryant reached the 40-point mark for the 17th time this season.

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 22 points as the Spurs beat the Portland Trail Blazers, 101-81.

In Milwaukee, Eddy Curry scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds as the New York Knicks beat the Bucks, 103-98.

Reuters, AFP

NBA on Solar: 10 a.m.—Utah vs. Seattle (replay at 8 p.m.)

Dubai Open: Nadal stuns Federer

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—RAFAEL Nadal, playing only his second tournament in four months, beat top-seeded Roger Federer, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, in the final of the Dubai Open on Saturday. Nadal, seeded and ranked second, took just under two hours to claim victory. The defeat ended three-time defending champion Federer's 56-match hardcourt streak. He had won both his tournaments this year—the Australian and Doha Opens. "I think it is unbelievable to win against the best player in the world—perhaps the best in the history of the game," the 19-year-old Spaniard said. "It was also special because I was out of the game for more than three months."

AP

Woods seizes Doral lead

MIAMI—THE SHOWDOWN TURNED INTO A circus act late Saturday afternoon at Doral until Tiger Woods came through with a risky shot into the 18th green and restored order to a jumbled leaderboard.

Woods recovered from a double bogey to surge into the lead, then carved a shot through the trees on the final hole and escaped with a 4-under 68 that left him two shots clear of Daniel Chopra and Rich Beem heading into the final round of the Ford Championship at Doral.

Woods charged with three straight birdies on the back nine and finished at 17-under 199.

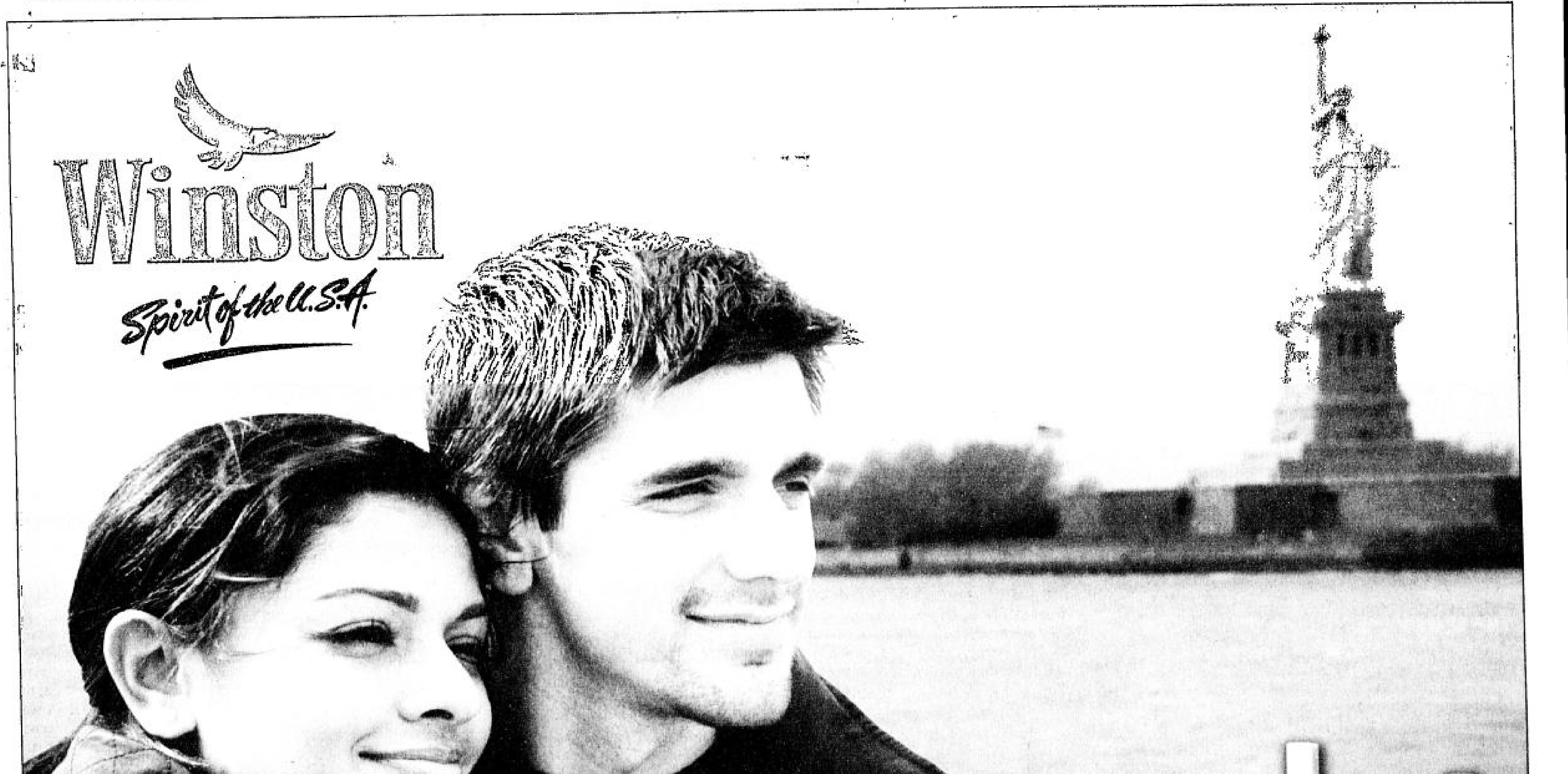
Phil Mickelson slowly lost ground on the back nine before hitting off barren grass into the water on the 18th. He made a 15-footer to save bogey, but still wound up four shots behind.

The fans sure got their money's worth, one man in particular. He was hit by Mickelson's errant 3-wood on the 10th hole, and it broke his watch. Mickelson went to check on him, and pulled two $100 bills from his bag to pay for the watch.

"It wasn't a Rolex," Mickelson said.

AP

THE SHOWDOWN fizzles as **Phil Mickelson** (left) and **Tiger Woods** go separate ways after the third round. REUTERS



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Bolivar, Yambao unchallenged

LUCENA CITY—ALQUIN Bolivar and 2003 marathon queen Liza Yambao encountered little resistance yesterday in topping the 21K elimination race of the 30th National Milo Marathon that wound up at the Perez Park here.

Bolivar, a criminology student of De La Salle-Dasmariñas in Cavite, clocked one hour, 13 minutes and 42 seconds to claim his first Milo leg title.

The 20-year-old Bolivar, who topped the 5K race in Lipa City last year, said he was set to join the 21K last season but couldn't find a slot.

VICTORS: Alquin Bolivar (third from left) and Liza Yambao are flanked by (from left) Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong, Milo Cycle Planning manager Rhyanne Monsanto, regional sales manager Manny Calubaquib and area sales executive Carlo Lazatin.

"Now I'm looking forward to the 42K," he said.

Bolivar, Yambao and the rest of the top three finishers in the men's and women's races advanced to the 42K finals in Metro Manila on Dec. 10.

Ben Alejandrino was second (1:15:54) and Ereneo Raquimpo third (1:17:55) among men.

Yambao, who dominated the distaff side in 1:34:10, said she couldn't wait for the Manila qualifying leg because she needed money now for her graduation expenses.

Bolivar and Yambao, a senior commerce student at the University of Santo Tomas, pocketed P10,000 each for their victories yesterday.

The 42K elimination race in Metro Manila on July 16 offers a bigger champion's purse of P30,000.

Finishing a far second in the women's race was veteran Mila Paje, with 19-year-old Corazon Salcedo, an education student of De La Salle-Dasmariñas salvaging third.

The top three 5K finishers were Jerome Beredo (16:51), Jessie Mancera (17:13) and Argel delos Santos (17:30) in the men's run and Bernadette Mag-aso (18:58), Jove-an Barcena (22:26) and Lyrio Gregana (22:34) in the distaff race.

John Sarinas and Eddielyn Ramos won the 3K kiddies race in the 6-9 age group and Mark Anthony Alemania and Rachelle Aranilla duplicated the feat in the 10-12 category. The marathon is held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific and Powerbar.

SPORTSWATCH

NCA 7-cocker today at RMC

MORE THAN 50 QUALITY FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN the National Cockers Association's first 7-cock derby for the month which kicks off today and on Wednesday at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Derby sponsors are Alex Escalon, the Jingco brothers, Jet Fernando and son, the Madlangbayan brothers and Iggy Arroyo and his group. The month's two other derbies are scheduled on March 13 and 15 and on March 27 and 29, also at Roligon. Among today's entries are the handpicked choices of Danding Cojuangco and Boy Velez, Johnny Jalandoni and Boy Jiao, Jerry Ramos, Patrick Antonio, Amboy Manlapaz, Butch Pichay, Claude Bautista, Rene Medina, Ric De Guzman, Pacifico Berin, Ruel Ricafort, JV Magsaysay, Edgar Santos, Tony Tan, Pepito Ngo, Efren Canlas, P. Menez, Joey Sarasola, Frankie Uy, Edu Manzano, Mike and Art Atayde, Julio Jalandoni, Boy Royo, Manny and Armand Santos, Boyet Joson, Ellan Nagano, and Jerry "Boy" Espina, among others.

PCAP derby starts in Makati

THE FIFTH LEG OF THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby series fires off at the Makati Coliseum today with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. The cockfest starts at 5 p.m. and features 70 fights. Lito Orillaza (Golden Syca) is the new frontrunner in the PCAP Cocker of the Year race with 12.5 points, followed half a point behind by Jake Macasaet (San Vicente Ferrer), Emil Chua (Concrete Breaker) and Efren Canlas (Winchester Gold). Also in the thick of fight are entries Singkamas Pride (11.5) and Spencer, Jimafer Magic, Victoria Peak and Altuz, all with 11 points.

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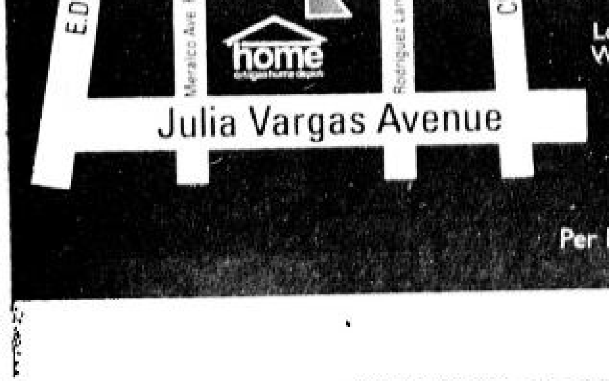

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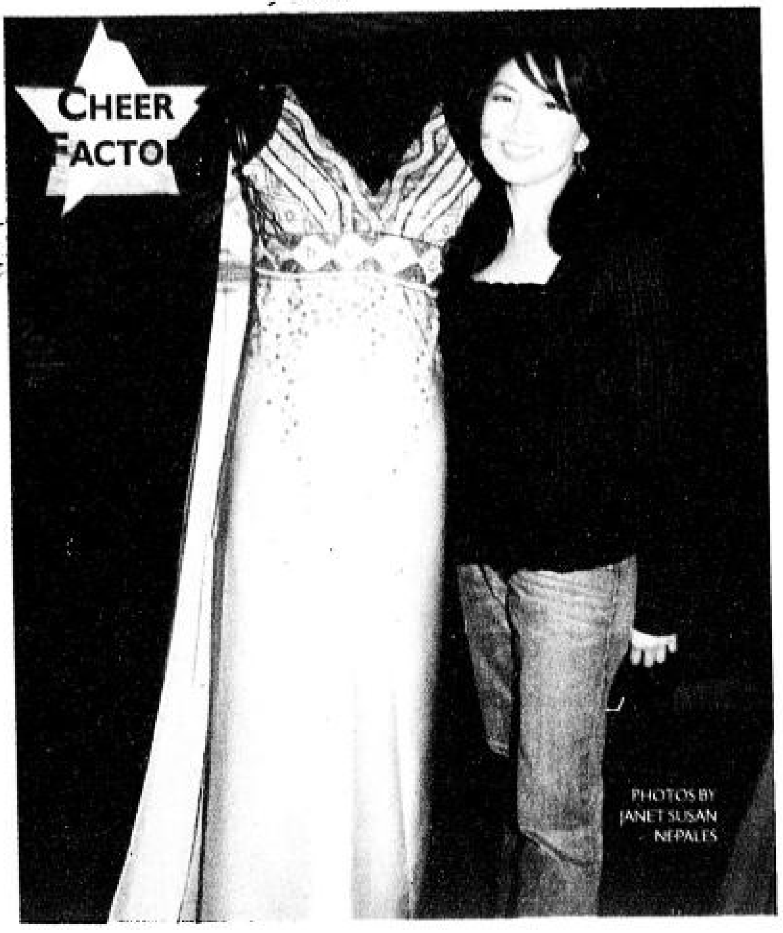
Fil-Am Oscar bet



PHOTOS BY JANET SUSAN NEPALES

ABOVE, Pia Clemente with Rajo Laurel (left) and David Tupaz, and the three gowns. At left, what she decided to wear.

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Pia's choice

PIA CLEMENTE, THE first Filipino-American woman to be nominated for an Oscar, will be wearing to the Academy Awards show today a champagne-colored ethnic-inspired gown created by Filipino designers.

David Tupaz and Rajo Laurel fashioned three gowns for Clemente in five days, with 30 workers.

Apart from the one that Pia picked, the two others are: a V-neck halter in burnt orange, and a spaghetti-strapped number in pink and chocolate.

Pia's choice sports a *pintado* (painted) tribal pattern.

The awards show will be telecast live on RPN-9 today starting at 9 a.m.

Pia, as producer, and writer-director Rob Pearlstein have been nominated in the Best Short Film, Live Action category for "Our Time is Up," a comedy featuring Kevin Pollack.

The petite (5'1") filmmaker said she wanted a gown that was "classy but sexy and comfortable at the same time."

INSIDE

- **Awards night!** /A2-2
- **Fun facts about the Oscars** /A2-2
- **Who's leading the Best Actor race?** /A2-2
- **Which films got the most nods?** /A2-2
- **And oh, those after-parties!** /A2-2

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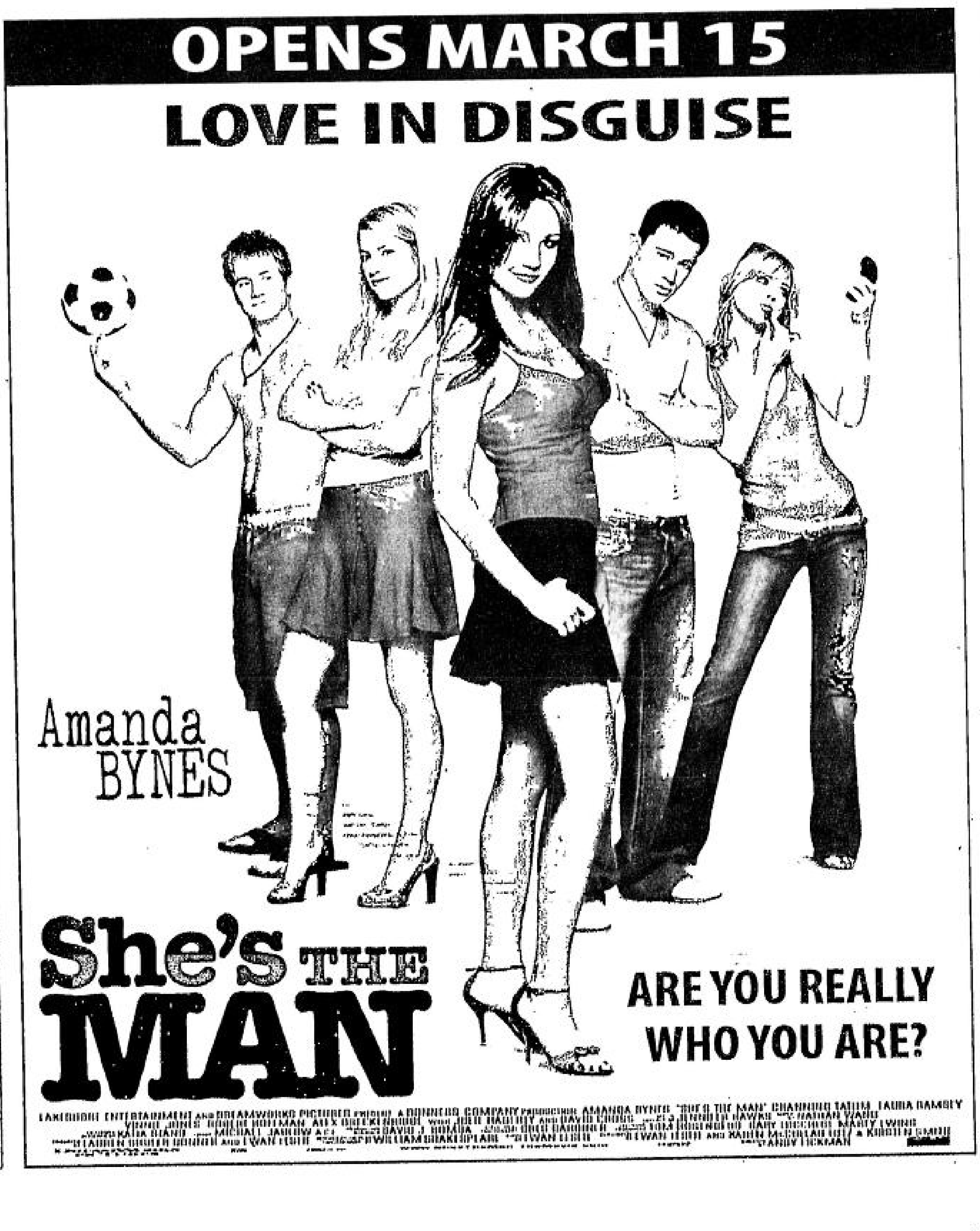

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Hoffman tops Best Actor list

LOS ANGELES—THREE LEGENDS OF ENtertainment and media are up against a pimp and a gay cowboy for the Best Actor Academy Award.

"Capote" star Philip Seymour Hoffman is the front-runner for his remarkable embodiment of Truman Capote, capturing the author's effete egoism and the dark conflicts that crippled him emotionally after writing the true-crime novel "In Cold Blood."

Hoffman faces Joaquin Phoenix ("Walk the Line"), David Strathairn ("Good Night, and Good Luck"), Terrence Howard ("Hustle & Flow") and Heath Ledger ("Brokeback Mountain").

In a year of tough-to-predict outcomes in the acting categories, Hoffman looks like the closest thing to a lock. He won the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Drama and the lead-actor honor at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

If Capote, who died in 1984, were around today, Hoffman said, "He would probably be critical because that was his life... but he would also be happy that attention was being showered on him again." *David Germain, AP*

Oscars fun facts, etc.

HOLLYWOOD—FOLLOWING IS A collection of fun facts about the Academy Awards, the 78th edition of which will be held at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre on Sunday (Monday in Manila:

- Even if this year's front-runner "Brokeback Mountain" wins all eight of the Oscars for which it is nominated, its achievement would fall far short of the record of the 11 statuettes each claimed by 1959's "Ben-Hur" (out of 12 nominations), 1997's "Titanic" (out of 14), and 2003's "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (out of 12).
- Screen heartthrob George Clooney this year became the first person in Oscars history to be nominated as Best Director and in an acting category for different films in the same year.
- If 26-year-old Australian Heath Ledger wins Best Actor, he would become its youngest-ever recipient, displacing the current record-holder Adrien Brody, who was 29 when he won in 2003 for "The Pianist."
- If Britain's Keira Knightley, 20, wins Best Actress for "Pride and Prejudice," she would become the youngest ever person to win that award.
- The oldest Best Actress winner was Jessica Tandy, for "Driving Miss Daisy" in 1989, when she was 80.
- This year marks the first time in 25 years that the five Best Picture nominees are a perfect match with the Best Director shortlist. The last time was in 1981.
- Legendary US movie composer John Williams is up for two Best Original Scores—one for "Memoirs of a Geisha" and the other for "Munich," making him the most nominated musician in Oscars history with 45 nods.
- Taiwan-born director Ang Lee, 51, whose "Brokeback Mountain" leads this year's nominations, received his first nod for 2000's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which was nominated for 10 Oscars including Best Director and Best Picture. "Crouching Tiger" eventually took home four awards, for Art Direction, Cinematography, Foreign Language Film and Music.
- A total of 14 of this year's nominees are first-time Academy Award nominees, while six have previously been on the shortlist for cinema's highest honors.
- Of those six, four ultimately won: William Hurt for playing a gay leading character in "Kiss Of the Spider Woman" (1985), Judi Dench for Best Supporting Actress in 1998's "Shakespeare In Love," Charlize Theron for Best Actress in "Monster" (2008) and Frances McDormand for Best Actress in "Fargo" (1996).
- This year marks the first time since the Best Animated Feature category was introduced in 2002 that none of the nominees were produced primarily by computer-generated imagery. The three films up for the award this year are: "Howl's Moving Castle" by Hayao Miyazaki, "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride" and Nick Park and Steve Box's "Wallace and Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit."
- Animation pioneer Walt Disney holds two Oscars records: He won more Oscars than any other person (26 statuettes) and with 59 Oscar nods, he retained the title of the most nominated person in history.
- Actresses Meryl Streep and Katharine Hepburn are the most nominated actors in Oscars history with 12 nods apiece.
- The person to win the most Oscars for acting was Katharine Hepburn again, with four awards for leading actress.
- In the Best Foreign Language Film category, France holds the record for the most nominations (34, including this year's "Joyeux Noel"), while Italy holds the record for the most wins with 10 statuettes to its credit. *AFP*

Which film got the most nods?

LOS ANGELES—HERE ARE THE principal feature films vying in the 78th annual Academy Awards, and their nominations.

"Brokeback Mountain," 8: Best Picture; Actor, Heath Ledger; Supporting Actor, Jake Gyllenhaal; Supporting Actress, Michelle Williams; Director, Ang Lee; Cinematography; Original Score; Adapted Screenplay.

"Crash," 6: Best Picture; Supporting Actor, Matt Dillon; Director, Paul Haggis; Film Editing; Original Song; Original Screenplay.

"Good Night, and Good Luck, 6": Best Picture; Actor, David Strathairn; Director, George Clooney; Cinematography; Art Direction; Original Screenplay.

"Memoirs of a Geisha," 6: Best Art Direction; Cinematography; Costume Design; Original Score; Sound Editing; Sound Mixing.

"Capote," 5: Best Picture; Actor, Philip Seymour Hoffman; Supporting Actress, Catherine Keener; Director, Bennett Miller; Adapted Screenplay.

"Munich," 5: Best Picture; Director, Steven Spielberg; Film Editing; Original Score; Adapted Screenplay.

"Walk the Line," 5: Best Actor, Joaquin Phoenix; Best Actress, Reese Witherspoon; Costume Design; Film Editing; Sound Mixing.

"Pride and Prejudice," 4: Best Actress, Keira Knightley; Art Direction; Costume Design; Original Score.

"The Constant Gardener," 4: Best Supporting Actress, Rachel Weisz; Film Editing; Original Score; Adapted Screenplay.

"King Kong," 4: Best Art Direction; Sound Editing; Sound Mixing; Visual Effects.

"The Chronicles of Narnia," "Cinderella Man" and **"War of the Worlds,"** 3 each. *AFP*

And oh, those after-parties!

HOLLYWOOD—THE BIGGEST STARS ARE looking forward to the dazzling after-parties that rival the Oscars' glamour.

Winning an invitation to the most exclusive bashes, such as the annual parties thrown by Vanity Fair magazine and superstar Elton John, is almost as hard as winning one of the Oscars.

"Everybody who's anyone comes to our party," said Beth Kseniak of Vanity Fair. The other "must-do" event is John's AIDS Foundation party, which features an early dinner during which guests watch the Oscars telecast, followed by a no-holds-barred party.

But the stars must first attend the official Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Governor's Ball, thrown for the 120-odd nominees and the other guests immediately after the ceremony.

The $750 per head do features cuisine by chef-to-the-stars Wolfgang Puck. *AFP*

REESE Witherspoon won a Globe for "Walk the Line."

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	3 CAPOTE 2:10, 4 30, 6 50, 9 10, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PRIDE & PREJUDICE 12.55, 3.30, 6 05, 8 40, 11 15 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 2 30, 5 30, 8 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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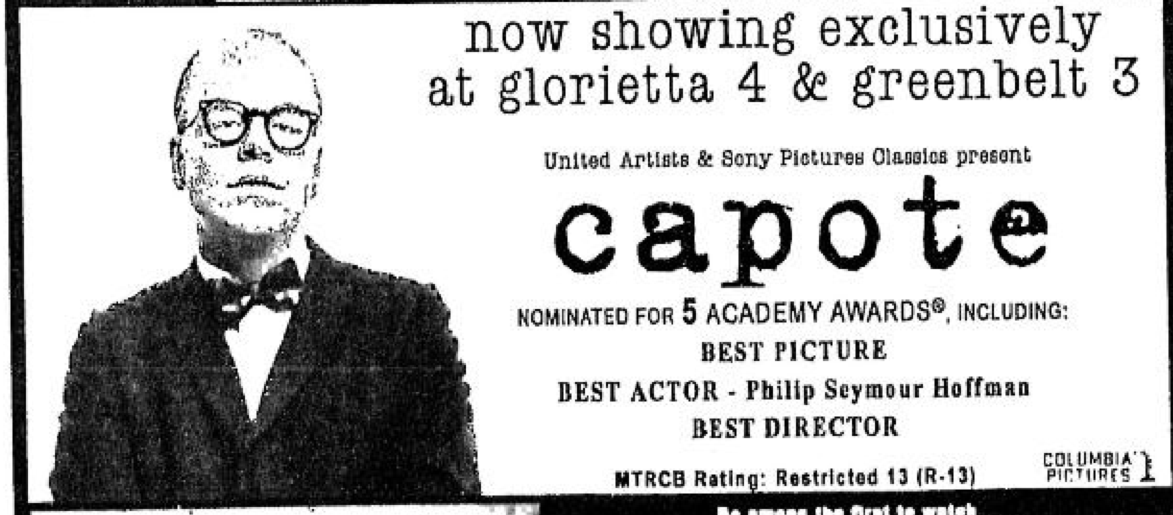

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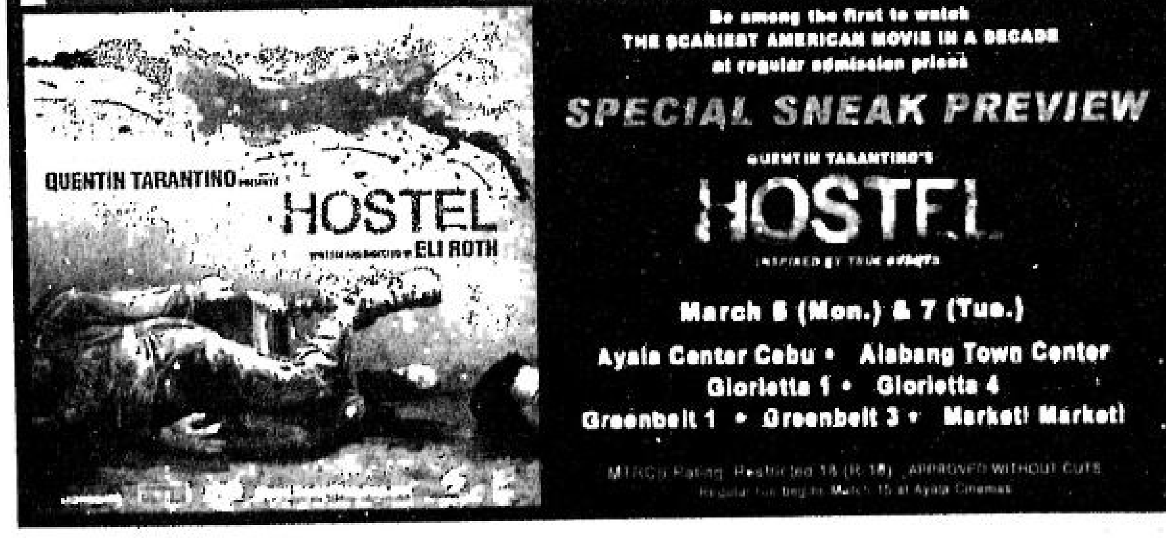

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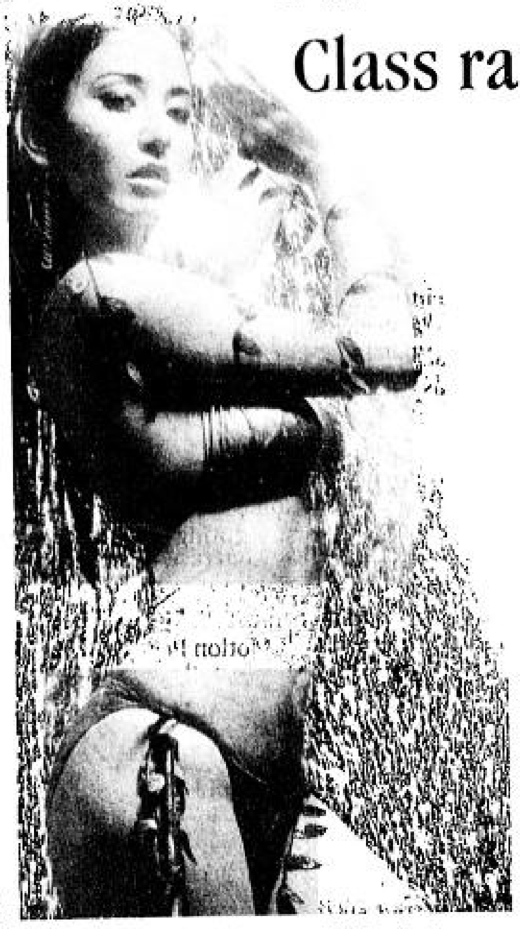
Class rather than crass in new sexy movies


KATRINA Halili, "Starstruck" finalist: What's going on? PHOTO COURTESY OF GMA 7

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME WEEKS AGO, FORMER CHILD STAR **Camille Prats** surprised her fans by coming out in her first sexy pictorial. Later, "Starstruck" finalist **Katrina Halili** also went the sexy pictorial route, and is now being built up as a nymphet by Regal Films.

What's going on here? In the past, most sexy actresses didn't come from the ranks of former child stars and talent search finalists. They were "discovered" in girlie clubs, and performed accordingly.

In fact, they were so brazen—and thespically inept—on the movie screen that the sexy film craze eventually overstayed its welcome, and erotic flicks no longer click with viewers today.

By the way, this is also true internationally, where the current hits are family pictures, action-

CLASS/ A2-4

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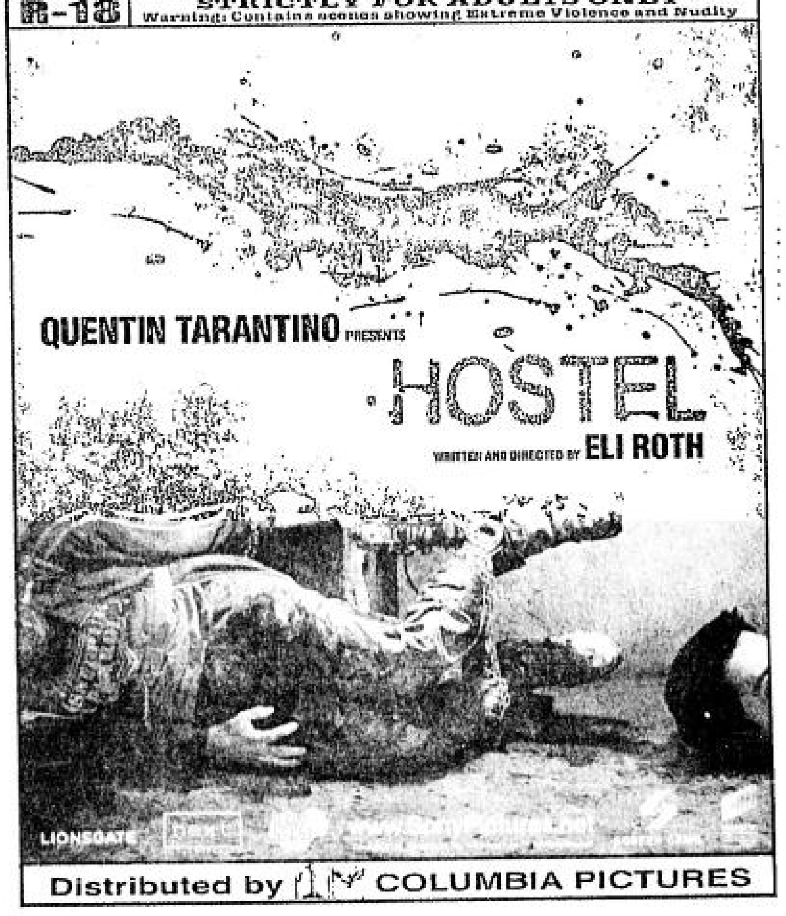
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SHE HAS THREE WEEKS TO LIVE...
THE REST OF HER LIFE

QUEEN LATIFAH
LAST HOLIDAY
Solar Entertainment Corporation

Class rather than crass in new sexy movies

From page A2-3

adventure movies, animated features, inspiring dramas and zany comedies.

So, why are Camille and Katrina's handlers updating their image to include sexy performances? It must be because they feel that local viewers can still get excited by new boldies—as along as they aren't "cheap."

This formula worked years ago, when the "decent" likes of **Dina Bonnevie** and **Assunta de Rossi** went the sexy route. But, will it click with viewers today? That would depend a lot on the quality of the launching projects' scripting and direction.

What's clear is that tacky sex flicks starring bodies rather than actresses have definitely had their day. So, we trust that new sexy movies go for class rather than crass.

Feedback

FROM **Anna T. Ignacio** of Makati City: "I was listening to the radio the other day, and I was shocked to hear the announcer cracking sexy jokes that were really below the belt. This should be a no-no on radio, because it's a medium that's open to everybody within earshot, including many children.

"Managers of radio stations should monitor their announcers more closely, to make sure that young listeners' vulnerable sensibilities are respected. All too often, in their desire to be 'entertaining,' announcers forget that not everyone listening to them is an adult.

"Even with adults, there are some jokes or remarks that are too risque for the broadcast medium, especially during the daytime, so discretion is also required."

'16 Blocks'

BRUCE **Willis** topbills the new cop drama, "16 Blocks," which opens in Manila later this month. He plays a veteran detective who unsuccessfully struggles with depression, until he is assigned to escort a petty criminal (Mos Def) 16 blocks from lockup to the courthouse to testify before a grand jury.

He saves the criminals' life several times.

In truth, however, it's Mos Def's character who restores the cop's physical and emotional well being. **Richard Donner** directs.

'Live to Worship'

PRAISE Inc. has come out with "Live to Worship," a 28-track, double-CD compilation of Christian Contemporary Music, available at House of Praise outlets.

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3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 NASAAN SI FRANCIS? 1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40
8 HOSTEL Sneak Preview
9 AEON FLUX 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
10 CLOSE TO YOU 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 638-7809 to 12

1 FEARLESS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 CLOSE TO YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 HOSTEL Sneak Preview
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 11:40 2:10 4:40
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 7:30 10:00
7 NASAAN SI FRANCIS? 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

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1 CLOSE TO YOU 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15
2 FEARLESS 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 11:40 2:40 5:50 9:00
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
5 MURDER 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
7 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 12:05 2:55 5:50 9:00
8 HOSTEL Sneak Preview

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SYNOPSIS
Gianni is a father who removed himself from the child rearing process when his mentally and physically challenged son, Paolo, was born. Paolo's mother died giving birth, so a kindly couple picked up the reigns and raised him under trying circumstances. Fifteen years later, a guilt-stricken Gianni gets back in touch with his, offering to accompany him on a trip to a hospital in Berlin. Paolo cautiously agrees to the trip with his father, but the reunion was awkward for both parties. The level of care Paolo requires is problematic for Gianni, while Paolo seizes the opportunity to unleash some pent up anger he's kept simmering beneath the surface for the previous 15 years. But a chance meeting at the hospital between Gianni and a fellow parent of a disabled child, Nicole, presents the beleaguered father with a lifeline.

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RIO Locsin in "Nasaan si Francis?": Fun.

Dazed, glazed

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

"NASAAN SI FRANCIS?" BRIMS WITH ENERGY and experimentation when it comes to visuals, but if you're expecting something really substantial or a story with lasting impact, you're better off watching something else. The comedy that centers on the ill-fated junkie Francis (Epy Quizon) and his former band mates Boy (Paolo Contis) and Sonny (Rico Blanco), boasts a cast that includes Christopher de Leon, Rio Locsin, Ricky Davao and Rita Avila. There's an obvious collective enthusiasm in that stellar gathering, but it may as well have been a prolonged local TV sitcom.

When the stoned title character croaks barely 20 minutes into the movie, Boy and Sonny decide to steal Francis' unsold Ecstacy pills hidden in his home, right under the noses of his bickering brother and sister (Davao and Avila). Boy and Sonny try to pull off a "Weekend at Bernie's" conceit, making Francis appear alive but high, drunk, or asleep to everyone else. And as most of them are used to seeing the guy dazed or unconscious, they're all fooled into believing just that.

Stretched

That premise is stretched until—and a bit after—the climax. What pops out is a collage of new parodies from De Leon as a drug dealer who accidentally gets high and dances to electronica in a convenience store; and from Rio Locsin, who plays a vicious, platinum blonde-wigged pimp. It's great seeing them do new stuff for a change, and as extra-hyper characters that are ultimately transparent plot devices, they're quite good.

What the story lacks in heart is made up for in bells and whistles. The movie sports some snazzy animation, trippy digital effects, and rock video cinematography. The director-screenwriter, Gabby Fernandez, shows potential to be really good; he has an eye for out-there imagery and composition. The story could have been tweaked to be more involving and believable, though. It wasn't established that Francis' house has thick, soundproofed walls that an assortment of loud characters can go unnoticed in it for a long time.

Blast

"Nasaan si Francis?" doesn't bother with back stories except for brief glimpses of the very dead Francis and his siblings' happy moments together. But despite lacking depth, the off-kilter characters of Locsin and De Leon are fun because they're so effectively nonsensical. Rock musician Karl Roy's short but memorable stint as a semi-narcoleptic stoner dude is similarly funny. If only the same can be said about Blanco's zodiac-obsessed geek sidekick. But it's pretty clear that the cast had a blast working on the film, just as it's obvious that the humor is strictly hit-and-miss.

ROUNDUP

'Legal Forum' now on QTV

STARTING today, "Legal Forum," hosted by lawyer Joji Alonso, will be telecast from its new home, QTV Ch. 11, Mondays through Fridays, 6:45-7 a.m.

Featured vignettes will continue to tackle one legal issue per day.

Alonso, also known as Atty. Joji, says she hopes public support for the program, continues to educate Filipinos about their rights and responsibilities, keep them abreast of the latest changes in the law, and arm them against potential abusers.

"Legal Forum" first aired on Nov. 16, 1992.

Asked why she has not expanded the show to a full hour, Alonso said the vignette format is perfect for "learning a law each day."

She believes "Legal Forum" has survived because the people are "hungry for knowledge about the law"—since it affects every person's life, from birth to death, and not everyone can pay for precious legal advice.

Latest from Brad

LOS ANGELES—Brad Pitt will produce and possibly star in a film of Mary Doria Russell's science-fiction novel "The Sparrow," about a Jesuit priest visiting an alien culture on another planet, Variety reported Friday.

Warner Brothers has bought the film rights to the book from Universal, putting production in the hands of Pitt's Plan B and Industry Entertainment.

Pitt, 42, created Plan B together with his then-wife actress Jennifer Aniston, who gave up her ownership in the company after their 2005 divorce.

AFP

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FEARLESS PG13 1:35,3:50,6:05,8:20,10:30	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 G 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE G 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

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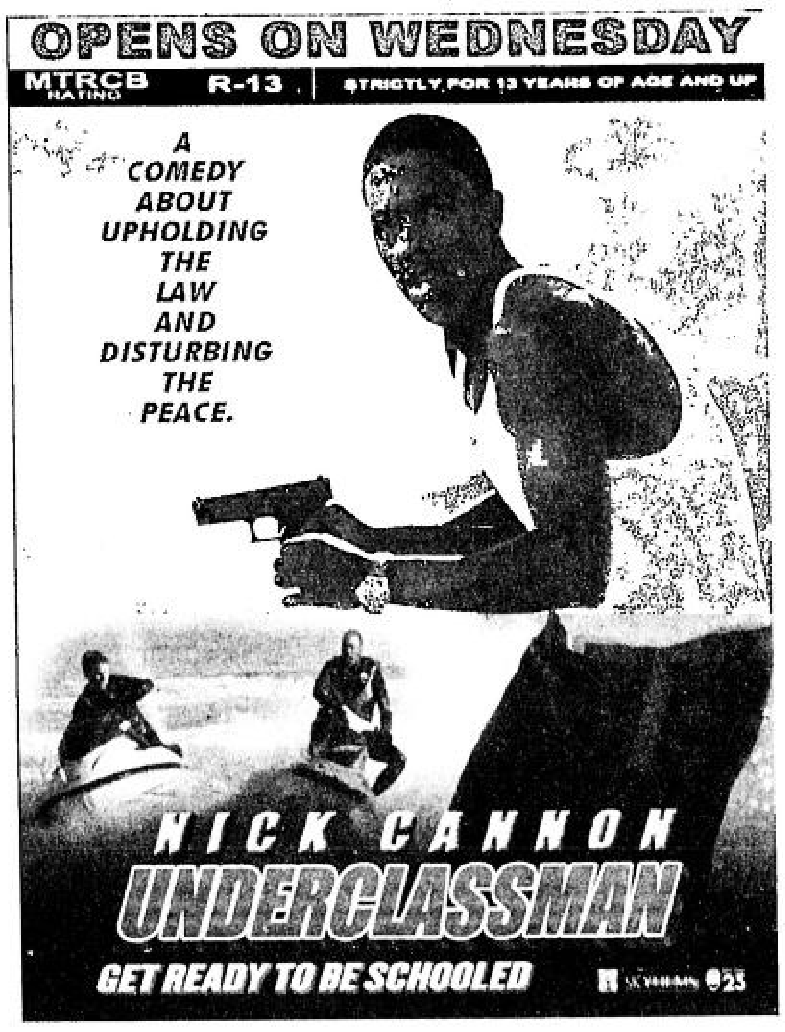

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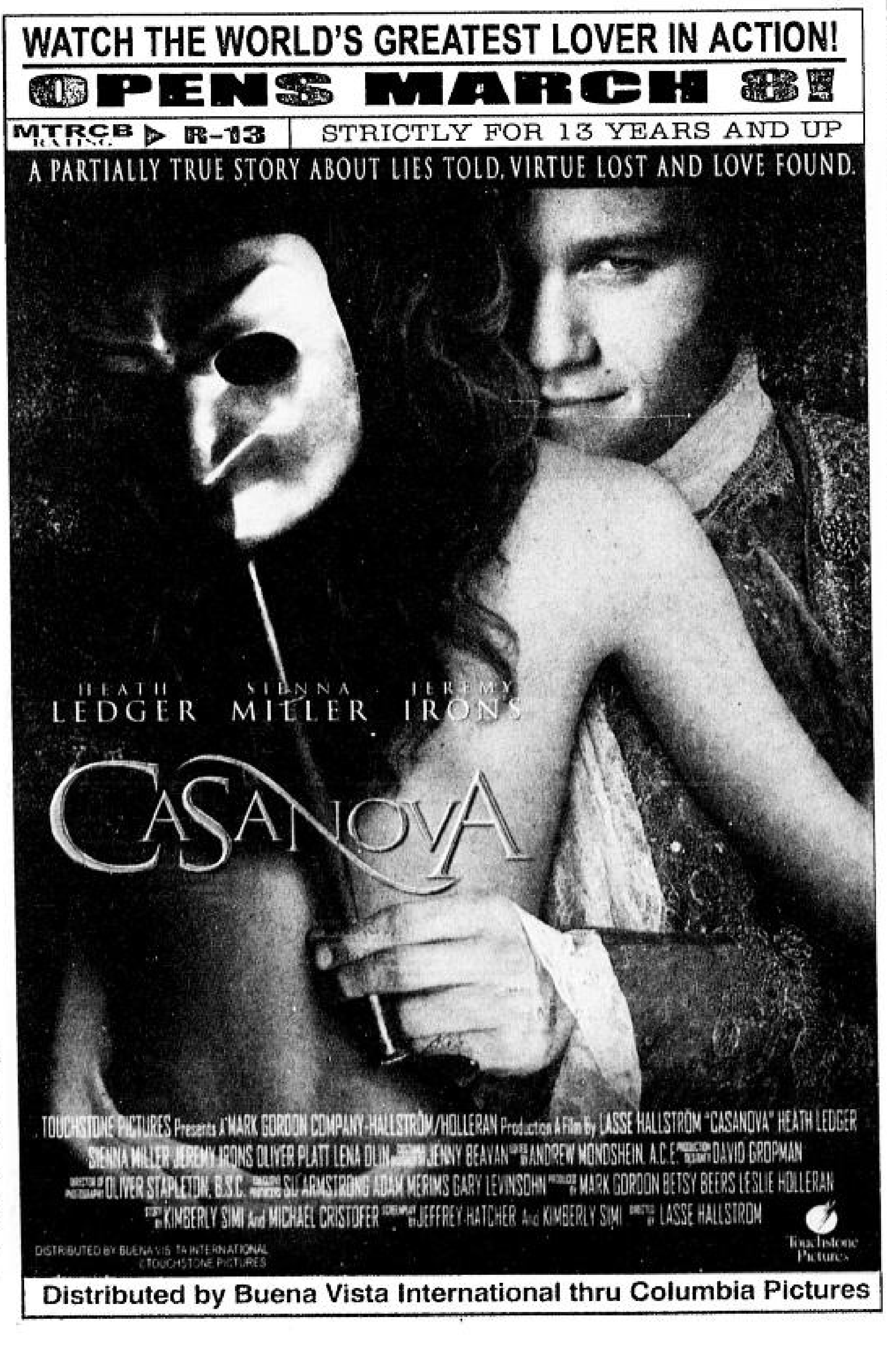

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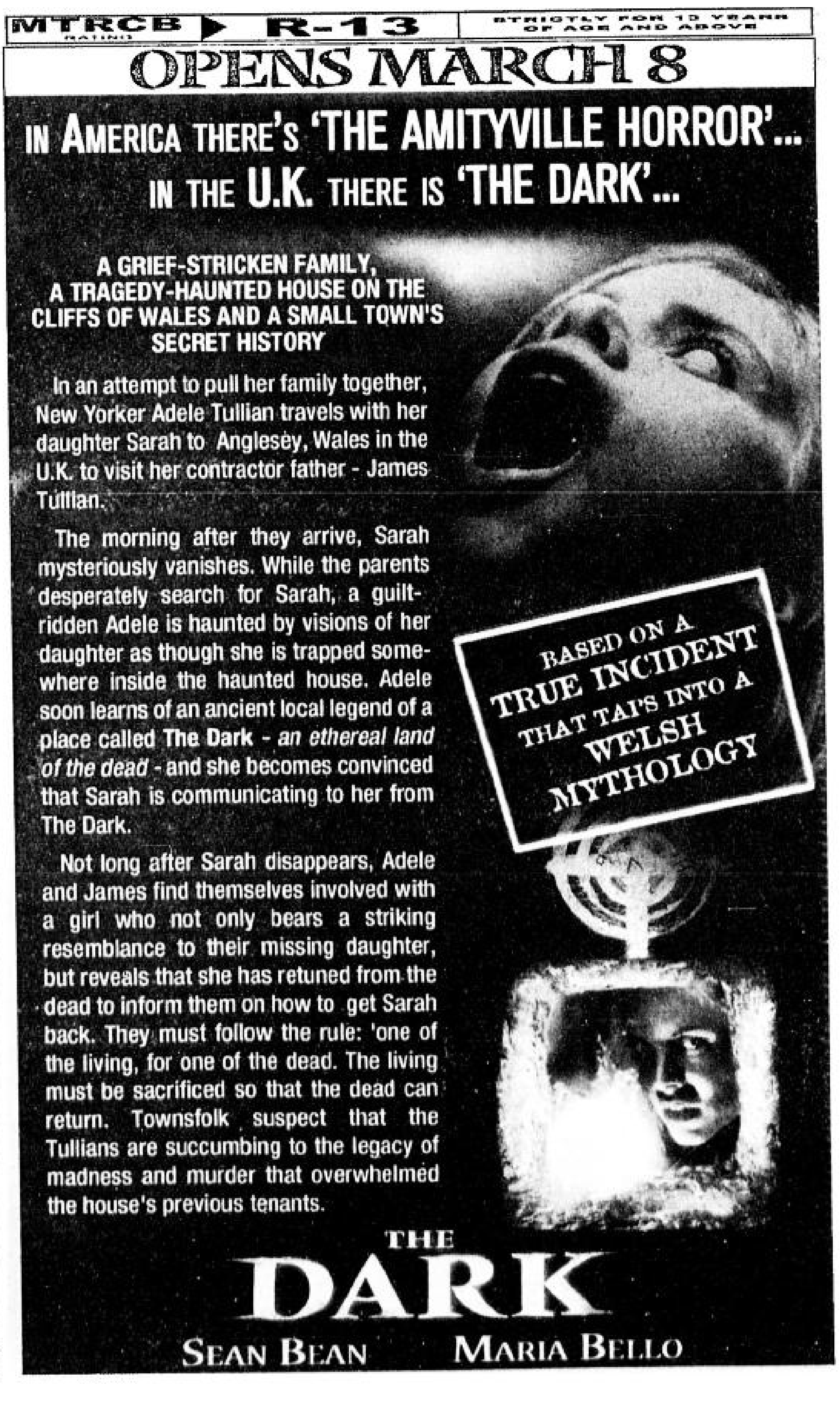

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OPENS MARCH 8
IN AMERICA THERE'S 'THE AMITYVILLE HORROR'...
IN THE U.K. THERE IS 'THE DARK'...
A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY, A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY

In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called **The Dark** - *an ethereal land of the dead* - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has retuned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

BASED ON A TRUE INCIDENT THAT TAPS INTO A WELSH MYTHOLOGY
THE DARK
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

SWAY, top row, between AI buddies Elliott Yamin, left, and Taylor Hicks on his last night on the show.

Sway's okay

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

And after 'Idol,' he's thinking of visiting Manila

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

THE DAY AFTER FIL-AM JOSE "SWAY" PEnala got voted out of "American Idol," INQUIRER Entertainment hooked up with him by phone.

The voice on the other end of the line was that of a very positive and a very graceful "dropout."

"I'm very happy to make you all proud. It's just too bad I couldn't stay longer so I can make you prouder," Sway said by way of thanking all Filipinos for their support.

Despite getting eliminated on Thursday (Friday in Manila), Sway said, he felt lucky that he got to be a part of this year's "American Idol," the No. 1 reality talent search show in the United States right now.

Doors opened

"When I joined, I had nothing to lose and everything to gain," said the 28-year-old who was born here in the Philippines and migrated to the US in 1989. "It may be the end of the road for me on 'Idol' but it definitely opened a lot more windows for me—doors, even."

He will surely miss "school," though, Sway said, referring to the stressful day-to-day rehearsals on AI. And certainly, he will miss his "school buddies" fellow AI contestants Elliott Yamin and Taylor Hicks, with whom he said he means to keep in touch.

Sway, who noted that choosing the right song to do on the show was practically as important as having talent, sang Stevie Wonder's "Overjoyed" during the male performance night on Wednesday. He failed to impress the judges.

Judge Simon Cowell warned him that if he carried on that way, he wouldn't make it to the grand finals. Indeed, Sway got the second lowest number of votes that night.

"I chose that song because it's something that people can relate to," he explained. "But when you pick a song, you have to own it, sell it, be comfortable with it. I think that was lacking in my performance this week."

Last week, the first Filipino male on AI was one of the recipients of Randy's trademark compliment, "We got a hot one tonight!" The same judge expressed disbelief when he saw Sway in the bottom three.

About talent

Being the only Asian in the contest this season, Sway said it was proof enough of Pinoy talent that Jasmine Trias made it big on AI two years ago.

"If you're talented, you're talented," Sway insisted. "It's not about color or race."

While on the subject, we asked if it ever bothered him that his fellow male contestants were taller and better-looking. Sway's confident reply: "I believe I made it to the top 24 because I had something to offer. Everyone [in the contest] is unique in their own way."

Asked how Filipino he has remained, Sway said, "Oh, I'm very Filipino!" He speaks Tagalog, he was proud to say, "*Pero konti lang*." Given the chance, he said, he would definitely like to build a music career in the Philippines.

Told that he has, in fact, gained quite a local following since making it big on AI, he exclaimed, "Really? Wow! That's great!"

"Now that you've told me, I just might go back there soon to meet all of them."

DID YOU KNOW...

"AMERICAN Idol" judge Paula Abdul was allowed to board a plane at the Las Vegas airport without passing through a security checkpoint, prompting all passengers and luggage to be screened when they landed in California, officials said Friday.

A spokesperson for McCarran International Airport could not confirm reports that an employee had just helped the pop star avoid a swarm of fans. *AP*

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PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
12:38 FS / 01:00 MF
03:05 LFS / 03:30 LMF / 05:38 END

SM MEGACINEMA
1. FEARLESS
11:50FS / 12:20 MF / 02:40
05:00 / 07:20
09:10 LFS /09:40 LMF / 11:30 END
2. PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
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7. FINAL DESTINATION 3
8. FEARLESS

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6. NASAAN SI FRANCIS
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2. BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3. CLOSE TO YOU
4. FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1. FINAL DESTINATION 3
2. BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
4. FEARLESS
5. NASAAN SI FRANCIS
6. CLOSE TO YOU

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2. PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
3. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
4. BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5. PINK PANTHER
6. FINAL DESTINATION 3
7. NASAAN SI FRANCIS
8. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9. CLOSE TO YOU
10. AEON FLUX
11. NEW WORLD
12. FIREWALL

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2. CLOSE TO YOU
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7. BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
8. AEON FLUX
9. PINK PANTHER
10. RESERVED

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2. AEON FLUX
3. NASAAN SI FRANCIS
4. CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY SUCAT
1. BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2. FEARLESS
3. CLOSE TO YOU
4. FINAL DESTINATION 3

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
1. FEARLESS
2. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
3. CLOSE TO YOU
4. SAW 2

SM CITY MARILAO
1. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2. PINK PANTHER
3. CLOSE TO YOU
4. AEON FLUX

SM CITY BATANGAS
1. ST. ANGE
2. CLOSE TO YOU
3. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY BACOOR
1. NASAAN SI FRANCIS
2. SYRIANA
3. FINAL DESTINATION 3
4. BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5. FEARLESS
6. CLOSE TO YOU
7. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8. AEON FLUX

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2. NEW WORLD
3. CLOSE TO YOU
4. FEARLESS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1. FEARLESS
2. AEON FLUX
3. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5. NEW WORLD
6. CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY LUCENA
1. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2. CLOSE TO YOU
3. FIREWALL
4. UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY MOLINO
1. SYRIANA
2. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3. BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4. CLOSE TO YOU

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
02:00 / 04:30 / 07:00
09:22 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END
2. FEARLESS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
03:30 / 05:30 / 07:30
09:20 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
3. AEON FLUX
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30
03:30 / 05:30 / 7:30
09:05 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
4. WALK THE LINE
5. PRIME
6. PINK PANTHER
7. CLOSE TO YOU
8. FIREWALL

SM CITY ILOILO
1. AEON FLUX
2. RESERVED
3. GOAL
4. WALK THE LINE
5. CLOSE TO YOU
6. FIREWALL
7. RESERVED
8. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY DAVAO
1. FEARLESS
2. PRIME
3. CLOSE TO YOU
4. BLOODRAYNE
5. WALK THE LINE
6. MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

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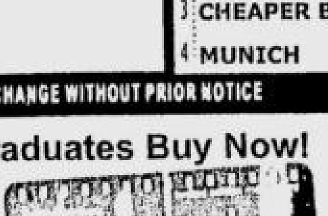

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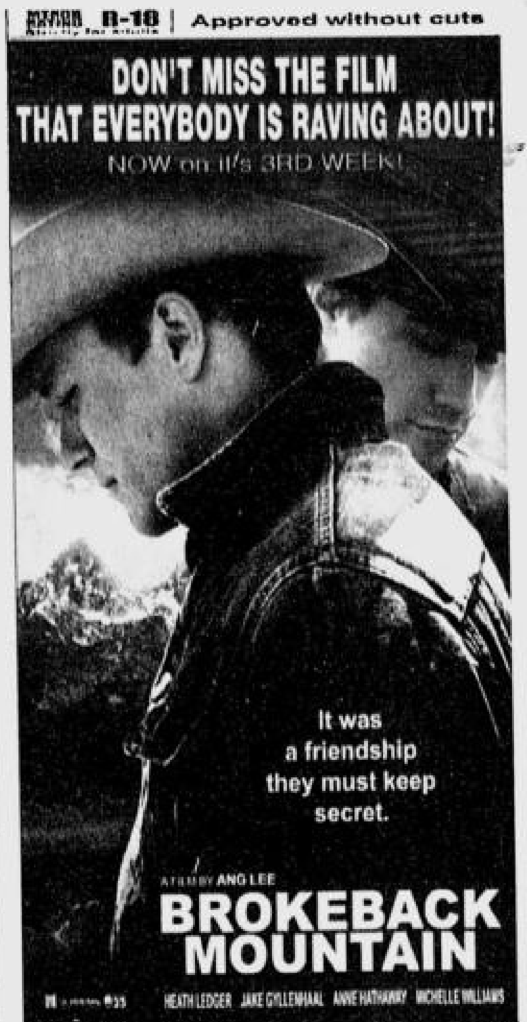

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Unpaid taxes delay sale of RPN-9

Deferment also affects privatization of IBC-13

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PRIVATIZATION of RPN-9 will not push through as scheduled because the sequestered television station still has to settle back taxes with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and address issues concerning its workforce.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who monitors the privatization program, said the financial adviser on the sale of RPN-9 recommended that the government postpone the sale until after the TV station's obligations has been settled.

"It (sale) will not happen this quarter. These issues need to be resolved first before we bid it out," Singson told reporters.

He said that from the original plan of selling RPN-9 within the first quarter of the year, the privatization would have to be moved to an indefinite date. But he said the government was hoping the sale could still be undertaken before the year ends.

Singson said that in a presentation before officials of the Privatization Council last month, privatization adviser CLSA Exchange Capital Inc. said the government might not find a good deal with any potential investor if RPN-9 remained burdened with unpaid taxes.

CLSA added that RPN-9 should have a definite plan as to what should be done with its employees when the privatization pushes through. This would avoid possible labor issues that might discourage potential investors, Singson quoted the financial adviser as saying.

RPN-9 also has debts with the Privatization Management Office that it has to settle before the government could begin efforts to privatize the television firm, Singson said. He did not disclose how much the television station owed, but said advances were made to partially finance its operating requirements.

Singson could also not provide details of the unpaid taxes of RPN-9, but said the government intended to settle all liabilities of the broadcasting firm before it would start the search for bidders.

The postponement of the sale of RPN-9 means the plan to priva-

UNPAID/ B6

Nestle seeks gov't help vs counterfeiting

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES INC. HAS SOUGHT THE help of the government in its efforts to curb the proliferation of counterfeit products using its brands.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said Nestlé officials have complained of having found evidence that generic food products were being repacked and sold using the brands of similar Nestlé products.

"The company has formed a legal team to address this matter," Hernandez said. "The DTI is ready to help following its mandate to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices."

The official said Nestlé officials were less concerned about the fake products eating into their market than protecting its brands like Milo chocolate drink, Nescafé instant coffee, Coffeemate coffee creamer and Bear Brand milk.

"The counterfeit products, which were de-

NESTLE/ B6

INDICATORS

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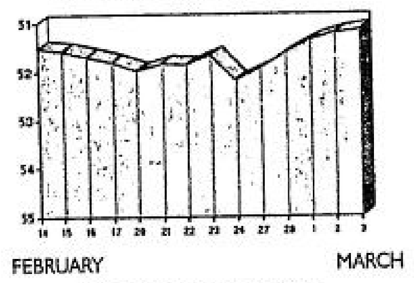

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As of 5 p.m., March 3, 2006

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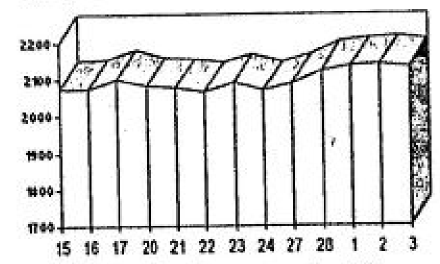


(See stock market report on Page B2)

Profit-taking seen

PROFIT-TAKING IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK AFter last week's rally, AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report.

It said in a note to clients that the market remained bullish in the medium to long term, but while the state of emergency had been lifted, the market still has to contend with the lingering worries about political instability.

It added that investors would keep a close watch on the release of January fiscal data this week.

"(T)here is (also) very little market-moving corporate news, with most of the major companies already finished reporting their 2005 results. One important data due (this) week that could be a potential catalyst is the January fiscal deficit report," AB Capital wrote.

Last week's Marines standoff in Fort Bonifacio provided an opportunity for bargain hunters to come in.

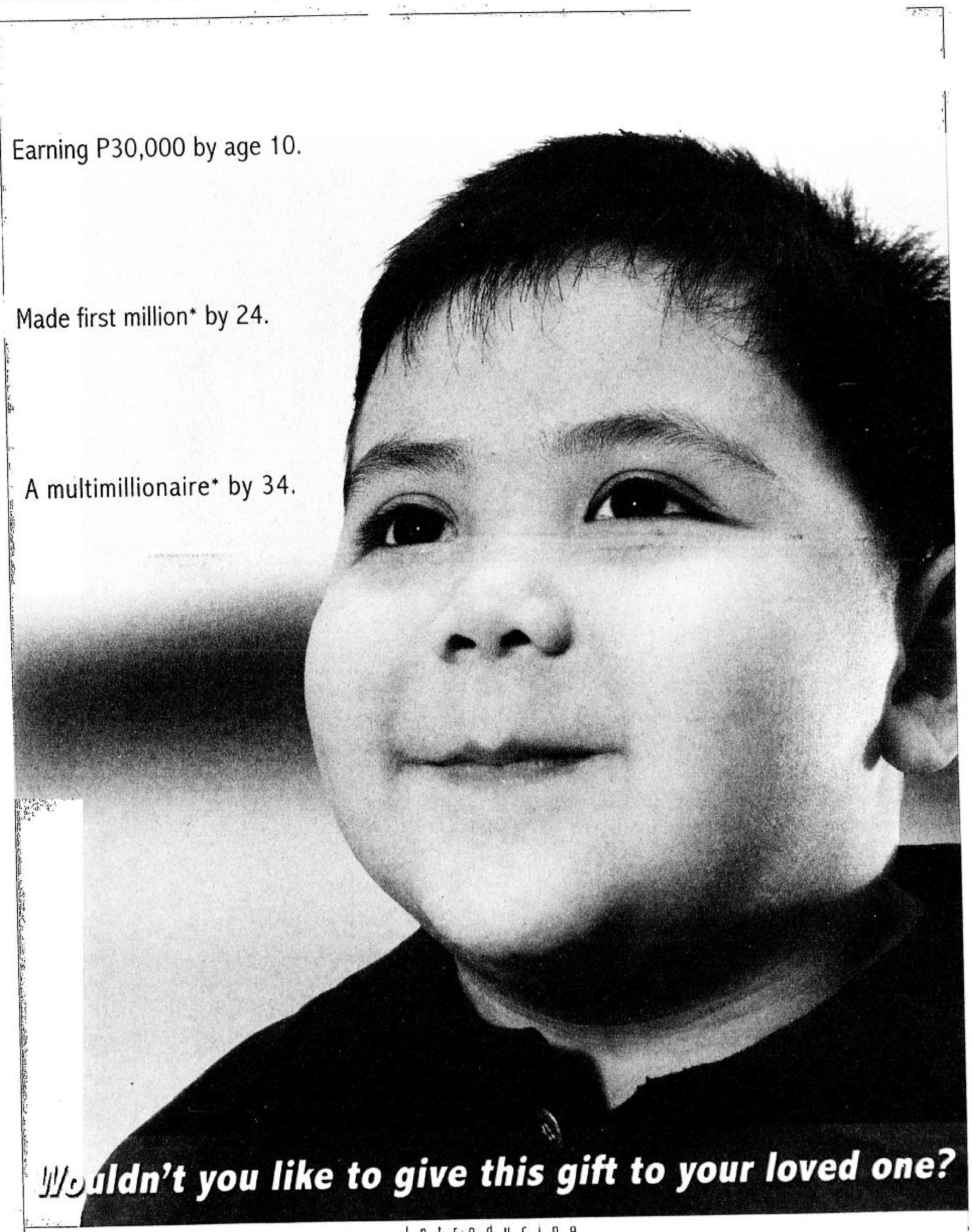
But with the lifting of the state of emergency last Friday, the composite index climbed 65 points over the previous week to close at 2,130.

AB Capital said fears of instability were taken as an opportunity to buy into blue chips, which continued to thrive through political turmoil given their industry dominance.

Fast recoveries were seen in PLDT, the Ayala companies (Ayala Corp. and Ayala Land Inc.) and the Sy Group (SM, Banco De Oro), companies that are awash with cash. PLDT's announcement of record earnings also drove up market sentiment last week.

PLDT reported that earnings in 2005 rose to a record P34.1 billion. AB Capital noted that core earnings were driven by the 5-percent

PROFIT-TAKING/ B3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₱11B worth of projects get incentives

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS APPROVED BY Department of Trade and Industry rose by 2.3 percent in the first two months of 2006 to P11 billion.

Trade officials said the improvement, which was relatively unexpected at the start of the year, was due mainly to capital infusion from Chinese and American firms.

Trade Undersecretary and BOI managing head Elmer C. Hernandez said investors were generally slow to commit projects early in the year since they were still studying their options.

The biggest projects committed in terms of cost were China Oceanis Philippines Inc.'s P1.08-billion theme park venture and Ford Philippine Components Assembly Co.'s P670-million flexible-fuel engine production program.

Other major projects that quali-

P11B WORTH/B6

Twenty percent for truth?

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

I WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED LAST WEEK AFTER catching a short interview on TV with a well-known and often-quoted stock market expert, a personal friend no less, as he commented on the effects of the current national situation on the equities market. He lamented how our economy is being undermined by the actuations of people who are hungry for power. He then opined that perhaps, politicians should be devoting 80 percent of their attention to getting the economy forward, and only 20 percent to the search for truth and other advocacies.

Misplaced priorities

I was moved to immediately react and actually respond by promptly sending a text message directly to the interviewee, my analyst friend. My message to him was: "I'm sorry I'll have to disagree with your priorities, relegating only 20 percent to the search for truth. I would not dismiss the search for truth and accountability as mere hunger for power. An economy not built on truth cannot be sustainable. Even as an economist myself, I do not consider the economy to be the be-all and end-all of our nationhood. I respect your right to your own opinion, but I am moved to react."

To be fair, he later explained that his interview had been edited to the point that his message came out quite differently from what he had intended.

Nonetheless, his edited sound bites seemed to illustrate what I believe to be the sad state of the sense of values of too many Filipinos nowadays—including and especially those in positions of power, whether political or economic. I have gotten tired of hearing that endless mantra that in the face of our current political crisis, we need to protect the economy and its "stability" or even "impending take-off" at all costs. But does "at all costs" mean even at the expense of truth, justice and righteousness? To my mind, such sentiments that depreciate more fundamental values spell what has been ailing our nation all these years.

More basic values

As I told my friend, I would not consider the economy to be the be-all and end-all of our nationhood. As an economist myself, I often lament how some colleagues in the profession come across as if the economy was everything, and as if we economists had all the answers to the world's problems. I submit that economic well-being is only one of six dimensions of human welfare, the others being the social, environmental, political, cultural and spiritual dimensions. As such, we economists can only claim to have about one-sixth of the answers.

True, economic well-being often makes its possible, or at least easier, to attain welfare in some of the other dimensions. There are many things that money can buy. But truth and righteousness are certainly not among them. As for justice ... well, even that has sadly become a commodity that can be bought or sold in this country as well.

Prerequisites

I would argue, in fact, that it's the other way around: truth and righteousness can buy (i.e. are prerequisites for) lasting well-being, including lasting economic welfare. Without these basic elements, any economic improvement we achieve would be illusory, fleeting and transitory. As I told my friend, an economy not built on a foundation of truth cannot be sustainable. In the absence of truth and wide respect for it, the economy stands on shaky ground, or as some have put it, a social volcano.

This should not be hard to realize, but is a lesson many people seemingly have yet to take to heart. For an economy to flourish and stay that way, contracts must be enforced and respected. Transactions must be transparent. Access to information must be equitable. Initiative must be properly rewarded. Rent-seeking must give way to fair competition. Capital must go to its most productive uses, not diverted to favored firms or industries. Taxes must be faithfully paid and collected. And so on. Witness how in the past, erstwhile vigorous economies ultimately collapsed for lack of these: Argentina in 2002, the East Asian economies in 1997-98, and Mexico in the early '90s are but a few examples.

Hungry for power?

Hence, I would not dismiss outright the efforts of those who seek to assert truth and accountability in our current crisis as mere machinations of people hungry for power. If there is anyone hungry for power, I say it must be those who stubbornly cling to it despite a manifest lack of credibility or even legitimacy. True, among those now clamoring for the truth are personalities most perceive as political villains of discredited dispensations or failed ideologies. But no one has a monopoly on good intentions. I would reserve passing judgment on anyone joining the fight for truth and accountability regardless of political color, when as the age-old saying goes, the truth shall set us free. If there is one thing that could unite us Filipinos, and indeed all of humanity, it is the common quest for this freedom that ultimately rests on truth.

As Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen argues, it is this freedom built on truth and fairness that can be the only basis for building a durable healthy economy, and achieving a development that is truly sustainable. We should not stop at anything less.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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Tetangco's big test

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THANKS TO THE FAILED COUP AND the "1017" shock, Amando Tetangco Jr.'s regulatory knees have been momentarily spared from their first big test.

A congressional inquiry packaged by Malacañang's rent-seeking allies on behalf of an ailing savings bank had been temporarily shelved.

The House inquiry would ostensibly examine the tough line taken by Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. against bailing out troubled banks.

But, according to the grapevine, the hearing is simply to put the congressional squeeze on PDIC president Ricardo Tan agreeing to pump in about P3 billion in Juan dela Cruz's money to recapitalize the troubled bank.

Even with the putative political squeeze, Tan already has a get-out-of-trouble pass, and this is where Tetangco, the new Bangko Sentral governor, comes in. Before doling out any assistance, PDIC must have a Bangko Sentral declaration about the troubled bank's finances.

Despite the Bangko Sentral's findings that the troubled savings bank was close to insolvency as early as 2004, the regulatory declaration has been put off, and the ailing bank still managed to keep afloat.

How? The pre-Tetangco Bangko Sentral persuaded a newly rehabilitated quasi-state bank to take over the troubled bank's operations, but with the understanding that a PDIC bailout scheme was in place to protect the bigger bank from any fallout.

According to the grapevine, the bigger bank, to protect itself should the promised PDIC assistance fail to push through, required the ailing bank's shareholders to put their necks and personal finances on the line in exchange for the lifeline. To which the board of the ailing savings bank, despite or probably because of their Gloria and Mike Arroyo connections, did, against their better judgment.

Nearly two years have since passed, and, woe, the promised PDIC assistance still has not materialized. But with the bigger bank now feeling the earnings drag and regulatory complications of their behest bailout, from whose pockets do you think that P3 billion would eventually be picked from?

iBank dodges Metrobank

INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank has managed to dodge off Metrobank from acquiring a board seat in iBank. That, in essence, is the import of last week's announcement from Philrealty withdrawing its appeal questioning the rehabilitation court's ruling about the listed property company's P1.86 billion in obligations to Metrobank.

In addition to various properties, Philrealty had pledged its 8-percent stake, good for one board seat, in iBank in exchange for the Metrobank loan. With Philrealty no longer questioning the court decision, Metrobank would now obtain various Philrealty properties to settle some P1.14 billion in obligation.

The manageable balance would be payable in installment up to 15 years, still collateralized by the iBank shares, whose value, incidentally, is now at a premium from the previous severe discount Metrobank was valuing the block prior to iBank's listing.

Money-go-round

- MIKE ARROYO golf mate Vivian Yuchengco is running for chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange. Her love-hate stockbroker colleague, Robert Coyiuto Jr., would likely support her, provided Yuchengco also root for former Supreme Court Justice Jose Vitug's own board candidacy.
- VOLKSWAGEN is shopping around for a new authorized importer/distributor to replace its troubled, and troublesome, local representative.
- YAHOO! Philippine users had problems e-mailing and receiving messages over the weekend because of an engineering upgrade for the popular Web portal.

Heard through the grapevine

MALACAÑANG has agreed to reappoint PDIC president Ricardo Tan to another three-year term.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

RCBC eyes new foreign partner

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YUCHENGCOS' RIZAL COMmercial Banking Corp. is scouting for a new foreign strategic partner to help it raise at least P5 billion in fresh capital and fill the void in case Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ unloads its 17-percent stake.

RCBC vice chair Cesar Virata told reporters that the bank would like to shore up its core capital to hurdle the stiffer capital requirements under the International Accounting Standards and Basle 2 framework and that the entry of a strategic foreign partner could be the key.

The other remaining option would be to issue new shares but the Yuchengco group, which already owns 60 percent of the bank, could not raise its stake nor buy the Japanese bank out of RCBC.

"We will be exceeding our limit. Under the approval of the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas), the entire Yuchengco group can invest only up to 60 percent," Virata noted.

He said a new foreign strategic partner could take up the 17-percent stake held by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ—if and when the newly merged Japanese bank would decide to let go of its stake to rationalize its Philippine operations.

The Yuchengco group is even willing to dilute its stake down to 51 percent.

UFJ has long been a strategic partner in RCBC, but with its recent merger with another Japanese lender, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi which has a full branch in the Philippines, Virata acknowledged that a sellout was a possibility.

"Bank of Tokyo has a branch here, therefore UFJ is withdrawing its officers because they can't stay with us. Now, the merged company must have a unified position in the country," he said.

Aside from RCBC, UFJ likewise owns a minority stake in Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

"We are discussing with several parties to take over (the Japanese stake) or make a strategic investment in RCBC," Virata said.

"Our priority is to get a strategic investor because in our experience with our Japanese investor, it improved so much our Japanese and Korean clientele, so if we get an investor from another country, it will help," he said.

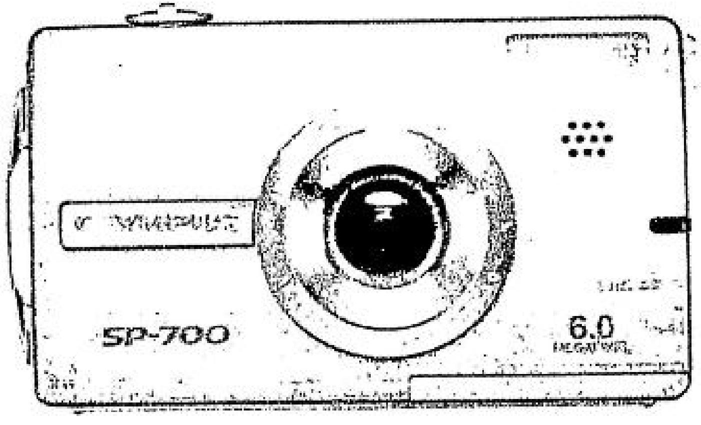
Profit-taking seen

From page B1

gain in service revenues to P121 billion. This was driven by the 8-percent growth in service revenues of mobile carrier Smart Communications.

"We expect PLDT's earnings to be muted this year given their guidance on selected financial items. While revenues are expected to grow marginally from added contributions of data services (both landline and wireless), accelerated depreciation expenses stemming from the gradual shift to its Next Generation Network (NGN) will partially offset this growth," AB Capital said.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez



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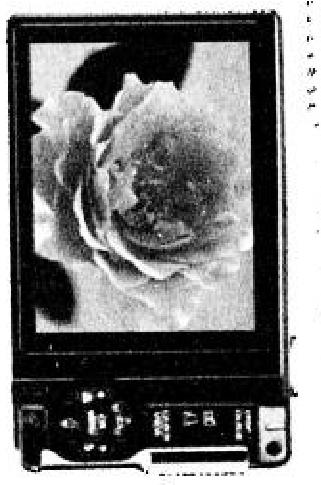

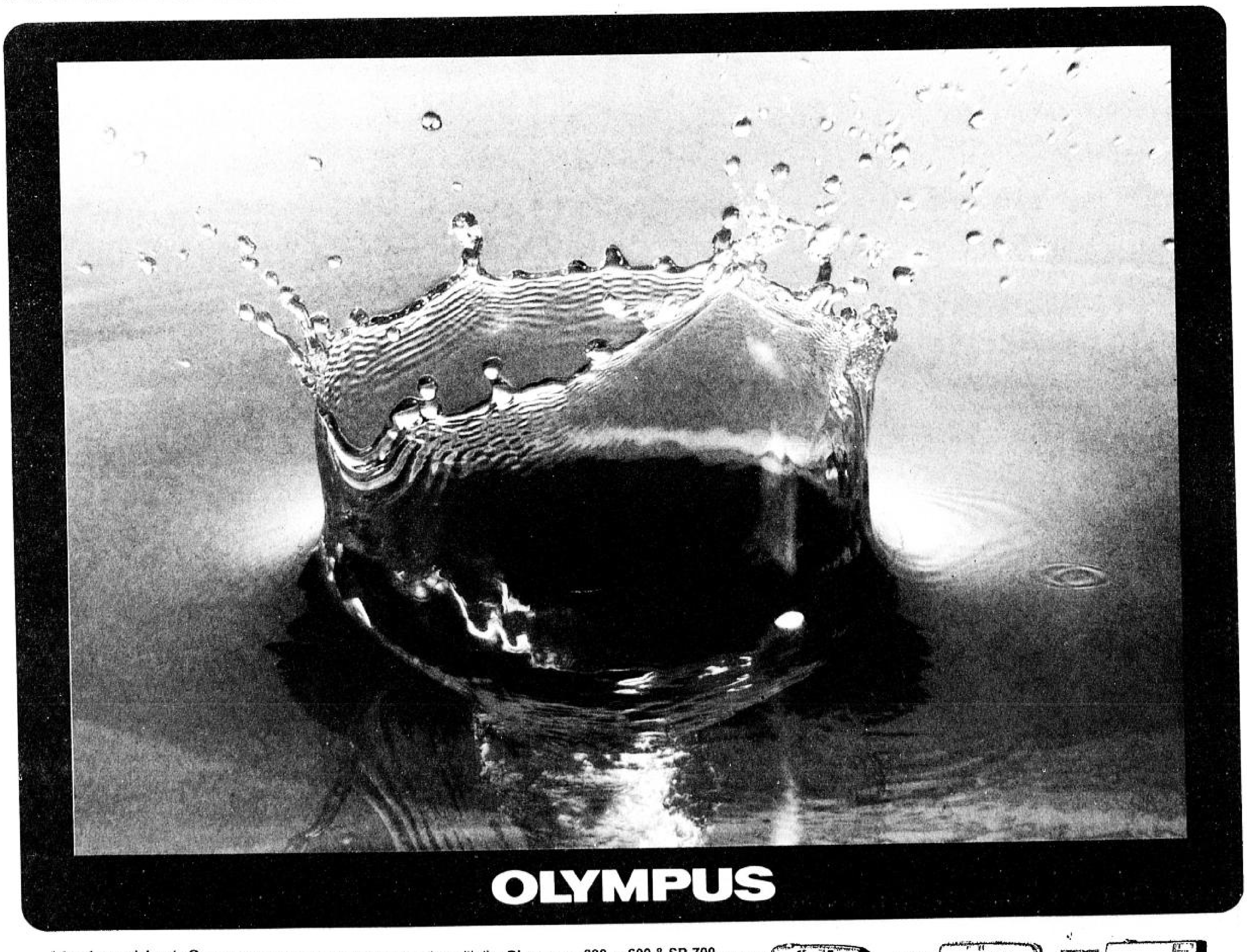

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Filinvest allocates ₱1.2B for projects

By Abigail L. Ho

FILINVEST Development Corp. has earmarked P1.2 billion this year to build condominium buildings within the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang.

FDC president Josephine Gotianun-Yap said that in addition to the four residential and small-office-home-office (SoHo) buildings that it recently launched, another four similar buildings were being put up within the area.

These new buildings, she said, would have at least 12 storeys, with some reaching beyond 20 floors, and an average floor area of 1,000 square meters.

Apart from the residential and SoHo condominium buildings, she said the real estate developer was also in the process of putting up the South Station commercial bargain center near the Alabang Public Market.

This "tiangge-type" establishment would cater mainly to commuters and other bargain hunters, she said.

A similar establishment, South Station Green, had already opened within the Filinvest Corporate City. Its second phase should be completed within the year.

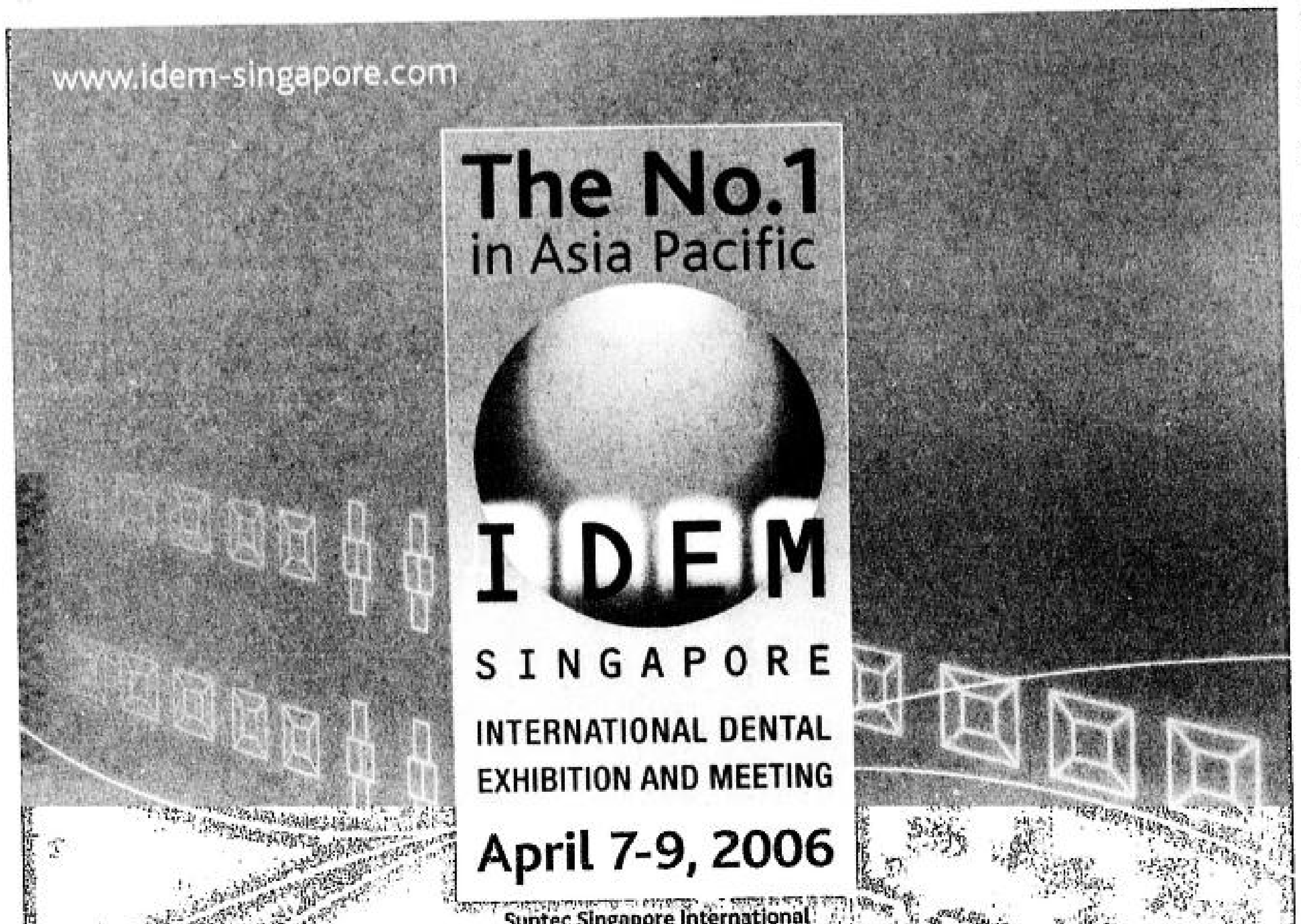
FDC has also allotted close to P1 billion this year to further develop its Northgate Cyberzone information technology park, also within the Filinvest Corporate City.

Gotianun-Yap said that as the contact center and business process outsourcing (BPO) sectors continued to boost the demand for quality office space, the company had to invest in more new buildings within the IT park.

Even while still awaiting the completion of two new buildings, the Plaza A and Plaza D, FDC is already planning to add yet another building before the year ends "if the market demand so warrants," she said.

The new buildings, she said, would have floor plates similar to the existing buildings within the park. These would have floor areas of between 1,600 and

FILINVEST/B10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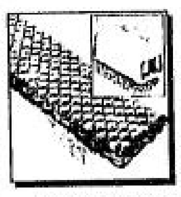
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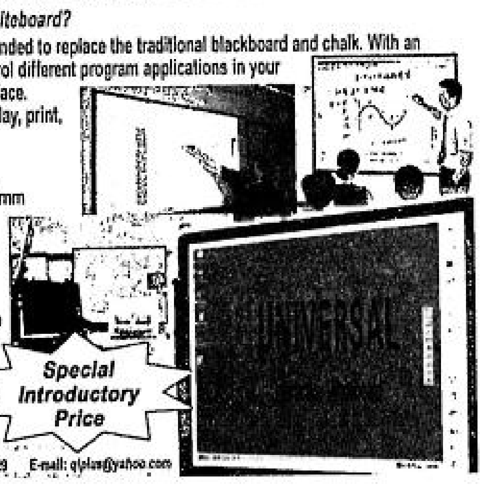
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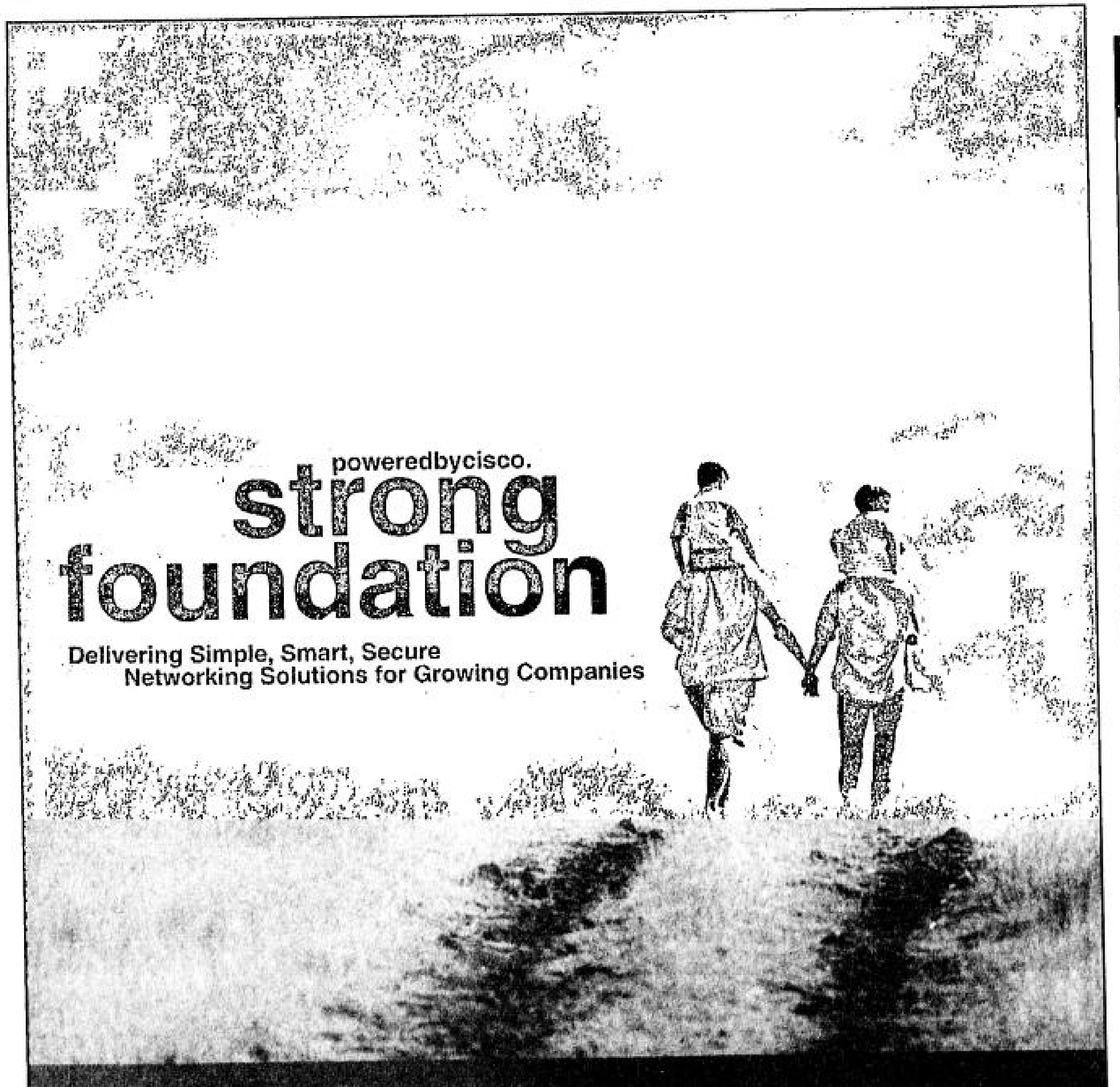
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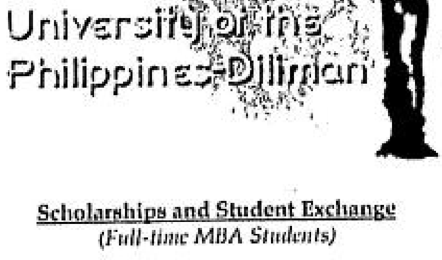
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IC to raise capital requirements for insurance firms

Shift to stricter accounting rules prompts hike in fundamentals

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INSURANCE Commission will jack up the minimum capitalization requirement for all new insurance players to boost the fundamentals of the risk-taking industry, in line with stricter accounting rules.

Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said the increase in minimum capital would include life and non-life businesses.

Insurance firms have until the end of the month to comply.

"There are already so many players in the market," Escobillo said in an interview. "I initially thought of [imposing] a moratorium on the issuance of licenses. But I realized: Why not just increase the required capital?

"If there's a (dormant) company that needs to be revived, it will also be subjected to the same requirement."

Escobillo said she was looking at three possible minimum capitalization benchmarks for startup insurers—P300 million, P400 million or P500 million.

At present, the minimum capital for a non-life insurer is P50 million. For a life insurer, it is P100 million.

"I imagine that a new [insurer] will have to build up its marketing and distribution channels, make a lot of investments and, with the new [International Accounting Standards], those initial costs may no longer be adequate," the IC chief said.

Unlike the banking sector, which has adopted the IAS system for its 2005 financial reporting, the insurance sector's shift to the new accounting rules has been deferred for another year.

The new requirements will be implemented to make sure that only strong players are able to set up an insurance business in the Philippines.

"There's a study we're now doing to determine what will be the required capital to assure the viability of new companies over the next five to ten years," she said.

Escobillo said it was important to align the minimum capital for non-life insurance with that for life insurance.

"In fact, non-life is riskier," Escobillo said. "They say they reinsure their risks, but then monitoring is difficult."

The rationale for having a lower capital requirement for non-life insurers in the past was that risks were supposedly transferred through reinsurance. But she said no company should rely on reinsurers alone.

"There's one company which wouldn't pay because its reinsurance company wouldn't pay ... that's ridiculous," she said. "If you're the principal writing company, and if you have a defective reinsurer, can you tell your client I can't pay you because my reinsurer will not pay?"

San Miguel consolidates overseas units

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. HAS CONSOLIDATED ITS key food and beverage businesses overseas under Australian unit National Foods Ltd., as it attempts to expand its foothold in the international market.

SMC chief finance officer Ferdinand Constantino told investors in a briefing last Friday that National Foods now had under its umbrella Australian juice maker Berri Ltd., Malaysian ice cream brand King's Creameries, four packaging firms also in Malaysia and a minority stake in Del Monte Pacific Ltd.

Constantino said the combined National Foods would bring San Miguel to new markets in China, Indonesia, Hong Kong,Vietnam, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and possibly India.

With National Foods now in its fold, SMC becomes less dependent on the Philippine market. Overseas operations and exports will account for 35 percent of the group's revenues or more than double the 17 percent a year ago.

Constantino also said that the integration of Berri into National Foods would enable San Miguel to generate more than A$50 million in annual savings, which would be realized through the consolidation of the sales and marketing functions. Savings will also be derived from the rationalization of manufacturing, logistics and office facilities, he added.

SMC is also planning to double National Foods' exports to Asia in the next few years and drive future growth through more acquisitions.

In 2005, the revenue contribution of the combined National Foods to SMC hit A$1.19 billion with an operating income of A$105.6 million.

SMC earlier reported that its net income grew 3 percent to P9.15 billion in 2005. Also, domestic beer revenue grew 10 percent to P40.5 billion, reflecting a price increase in February. Sales volume declined 2 percent to 170 million cases because of soft consumer demand.

Despite the increase in excise taxes, operating income for domestic beer grew 13 percent to P8.31 billion. This was attributed to effective cost management efforts.

International beer revenue also grew 8 percent to $283.7 million with growth coming largely from Indonesia and Australia.

Hard liquor unit Ginebra San Miguel posted a 20-percent decline in revenue to P10.5 billion, while operating income contracted 64 percent to P906 million.

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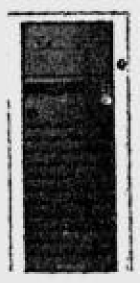

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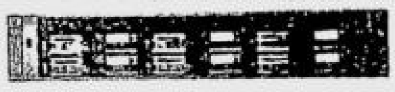

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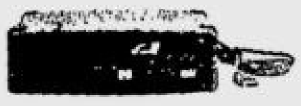

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MRTC wants to tap road users' tax fund

Settling debts, minimizing need for new borrowings

By Michelle V. Remo

METRO RAIL TRANSIT CORP., which owns and operates the Metro Rail Transit-3, wants to tap portion of the road users tax to fund operational requirements.

MRTC said the P2.1-billion allocation committed by the national government was insufficient to cover its mounting deficits.

The company had sought P7.8 billion from the government to settle arrears incurred in 2005 and to fund operations this year.

But due to the government's own budget constraints, the Department of Budget and Management earmarked for MRT-3 only P2.1 billion of the proposed 2006 national budget.

The amount earmarked for MRT-3 would come from the additional revenue arising from the recent increase in the value-added tax rate.

Officials of the mass transit system said MRT-3 still needed P5.7 billion to finance all its operational requirements and settle its liabilities. They said MRT-3 had been incurring losses because the fares charged to riders were hardly enough to cover operational expenses.

A government source said MRTC had formally requested the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) to divert to MRT-3 the fund for the Special Vehicle Pollution Control Fund (SVPCF), which stood at P2 billion.

SVPCF is intended for projects aimed at minimizing air pollution. Its funding comes from the road users' tax.

The road users' tax funds are also used for road maintenance, and installation of traffic lights and road safety devices.

Sources said MRTC had also obtained the consent of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the proposed use of SVPCF for MRT-3.

The DBCC, led by the DBM, is expected to discuss MRTC's proposal in its next meeting this month.

But even if the entire P2-billion SVPCF was allocated for MRT-3, MRTC would still be needing another P3.7 billion.

MRT-3 has long been seeking an increase in its fares but the government seemed hesitant to approve such an unpopular proposal.

MRTC said its minimum fare should be raised to P72 to break even. But since the ideal amount was too high for commuters, MRTC said an adjustment from the current minimum fare of P11 to P20 would be of help to reduce its need to borrow.

The government, sources said, was studying the possibility of implementing the rate hike in 2007.

LRTA cuts losses

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY has exceeded its operation, maintenance and financial targets in 2005, according to Takeshi Kikukawa, Japan International Cooperation Agency's (Jica) management consultant for railway projects in the Philippines.

Kikukawa said LRTA was able to substantially reduce its losses to P829.7 million last year, from P1.46 billion in 2004.

"LRTA has outdone itself in 2005. More trains are running due to faster and more transparent procurement of parts for downed trains. More passengers are taking the train because of the low fares and enhanced efficiency. Overall, the net losses are smaller due to better planning and management," Kikukawa said in his report.

LRT-1 (Baclaran to Monumento) surpassed its monthly target of 74,282,309 passengers and had 76,809,417 actual passengers in 2005. LRT-2's (Santolan, Pasig to Recto) target ridership of 29,391,704 was exceeded at 30,214,022.

Kikukawa said the performance was remarkable, particularly for the 25-year-old trains and tracks of LRT-1.

He said the agency was able to beef up its fleet to 75 vehicles by repairing and putting into operation idle units.

Before LRTA Administrator Mel Robles took over the agency in September 2004, only 64 trains were running.

A new peak passenger record of 428,000 per day has been set, from the previous high of 338,000 before Robles took over.

The Jica management consultant said substantial improvement in the procurement lead time was achieved by the agency streamlining the process.

He said that in 2004, the processing of bids and awards took 10 to 15 months. In 2005, the lead time was reduced to three months for the procurement of local parts and to six months for foreign-made parts.

1017: A layman's view

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WAY BACK IN THE EARLY 1600s, enemies from all sides threatened France. Outside, Austria and Spain were rattling their sabers. Inside, the Huguenots were in revolt. Even the Queen Mother and the king's traitorous brother were shaking the throne. Cardinal Richelieu, minister of state and arguably the greatest statesman in French history, routed all the enemies. French influence spread throughout Europe.

It was Richelieu who first proclaimed for the whole world to hear that when the security of the state is threatened, the state must defend itself with all the forces at its command—even at the sacrifice of individual rights. The exercise of the citizen's precious individual rights must give way, if necessary, to the higher demands of defending and protecting a threatened state. This principle has resounded throughout history for close to 400 years.

But, when should the state call out the troops? When Marines are shooting at fellow Marines? When blood is already flowing in the streets?

Today, the Richelieu doctrine still rings true. But, to avoid the need to tear down barricades, the state can spring into action in the face of "clear and present danger" to national security. Simply put, nip the rebellion in the bud.

In the Harrison Ford movie "Clear and Present Danger" based on the Tom Clancy book, the president of America bewails the drugs being smuggled into the US. He decides that the Colombian drug cartel was a clear and present danger to national security. He tacitly approves the covert Project Reciprocity to wipe out the cartel.

Can we not look at Proclamation No. 1017 as merely following the age-old Richelieu doctrine and the new-fangled clear-and-present-danger strategy?

Those against 1017 look at the issue in fragments. When each incident—Randy David's arrest, the communist march to the Edsa shrine, the Time story on Peping and Boy, to cite only three—is viewed in isolation, 1017 is indeed an overkill, as Fidel Ramos has claimed.

But the view from the mountaintop is quite different. When reports on the restive Scout Rangers and Marines, a tactical alliance between Magdalo diehards and the NPA, and the inciting to rebellion by media pour into Malacañang, the President had to decide whether a clear and present danger to national security existed.

And when the President decided to spring into action, she did not have to file an application form at the Integrated Bar or the UP Law Center.

Media has charged that the President is muzzling freedom of speech. Media is self-regulated. As far as I can see, the government merely wants media to stick to its own rules. In the standoff at the Marine headquarters, ABS-CBN anchors Pia Hontiveros and Ces Drilon asked the reporters on the spot where the armored vehicles came from. This clearly violated the rule on troop movements.

Now that diehard communists like Crispin Beltran, Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casino, Lisa Masa, et al., have been hauled in on rebellion charges, let us stick to the rule of law. Even as the communists abuse our democratic system to install a totally discredit way of life, we should prove to them and to the whole world that we can protect and defend our way of life within our democratic system. If we start breaking the rule of law ourselves, then we shall have lost the war.

By the way, as my friend Joey said the other day, if the coup had succeeded, we would be under a military junta today. So, why bitch?

Unpaid taxes delay . . .

From page B1

tize IBC-13, another state-owned television station, will also have to be delayed. The government has decided to work on the sale of IBC-13 only after the privatization of RPN-9 has been completed.

There was an earlier proposal for a joint sale of the two TV stations, but officials were advised that the government could maximize revenue potentials of the state assets if these were sold separately.

The government still has to come up with a valuation for RPN-9, Singson said, because the prices proposed by the financial adviser were deemed low by privatization authorities.

The television stations have been included in the list of state assets to be sold this year. Other assets included in the privatization list are Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank, Philippine Postal Corp., the former International School property in Makati City, and several power-sector assets.

Last year, the government sold its shares in Philippine National Bank to taipan Lucio Tan.

Nestle seeks gov't help . . .

From page B1

tected as early as 2002, are being circulated mainly through small *sari-sari* stores," Hernandez said. "Nestlé has put up a reward system to catch the counterfeiters and I was told it has released a total of at least about P2 million for successful operations."

He said that so far, detecting the fake products required special training because counterfeit packaging looked almost exactly like the original.

However, Nestlé officials said the company has received complaints from consumers about the "lowered" quality of their products like the diluted taste of Nescafe, which turned out to be the counterfeit ones.

Hernandez said Nestlé was devising plans to improve its capability to detect fake products while the DTI was studying ways to help in these efforts.

In January, Nestlé Philippines chair Nandu Nandkishore announced that the firm had earmarked P2.5 billion in capital expenses for the modernization and expansion of its production plants.

Nandkishore said the fund would go to the upgrade, capacity expansion, environmental compliance requirements and other needs of the firm's various facilities in the country.

The company has manufacturing plants in Cabuyao, Laguna; Lipa, Batangas; Pulilan, Bulacan; and in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Quezon and Marikina.

Nandkishore, who is also the company president and chief executive, said NPI had been laying out at least P2 billion annually in the past few years.

Nestlé product lines include milk, infant nutrition, infant food, beverages, non-dairy creamer, food, ice cream and chilled dairy, breakfast cereals, confectionery and pet care.

The firm also owns established brands such as Nido milk formula, Nestea powdered tea drink, Maggi instant noodles, Alpo dog food.

P11B worth of projects . . .

From page B2

fied for tax holidays and other incentives included Procter & Gamble Philippines' P356-million venture in baby diaper production, LogiCall's P147-million call center project, and Philippine Auto Components' P118.5-million project for the production of cluster parts and other components for motor vehicles.

DTI documents showed that the Board of Investments gave the go-ahead to grant incentives to P2.48 billion worth of projects as of end-February while the Philippine Economic Zone Authority registered P8.44 billion.

For the period, the cost of BOI-listed projects went down by about 41 percent from P4.2 billion while those with Peza went up 27.6 percent from P6.59 billion.

DTI Secretary Peter B. Favila said investments were expected to continue pouring as companies would have renewed interest in the country especially since the state of national emergency had been lifted.

"The uncertainty caused by recent events is now cast off and promoting investment and presenting the country as a preferred business destination would be much easier," Favila said.

Hernandez said the country was now in the best position among Asian nations to gain a larger share of international electronics services contracts "(given) the Filipinos' proven expertise" in information and communication technology.

"Based on trends in outsourcing services, Asia would be a source of significant outsourcing operations from the United States and Europe," he said.

In January alone, investments in the IT sector that were listed with the DTI reached P260 million, or an increase of 24.9 percent from P208.2 million in the same month in 2005.

These projects are expected to create some 6,400 new jobs, bulk of which are for call center agents.

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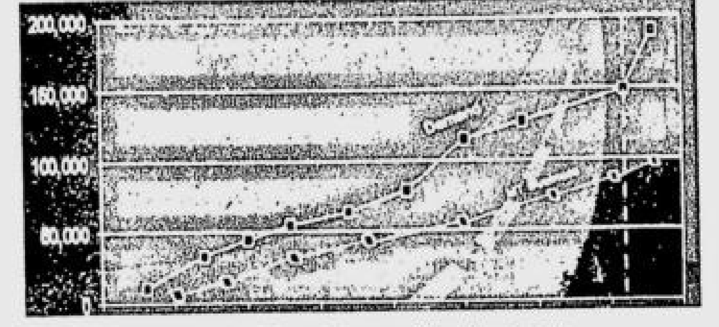

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Winner's Bracket 1 to 15, best of 3 sets • Loser's Bracket 1 to 21, single game

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The tournament organizers and its tournament committee shall post a leveling guide. This contains the player's name, level and city/region/province. All names and corresponding levels posted on the leveling guide shall be honored by the participants. Should your name not be on the leveling guide, you are requested to attend the leveling date schedule on March 10, 2006, 5:00pm onwards at the Smash Ville Fitness Center. Any protest as to the leveling guide shall be honored only during the tournament leveling date.

THE TOUNRAMENT COMMMITTEE RESERVSE THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CHANGE THE SCHEDULE, FORMAT OF PLAY, LEVEL OF PLAYERS, POINT SYSTEM, ETC. FOR THE BETTER INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT.

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2nd Runner-up	P1,000 + Medal/Player+Gift Cert.
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March 11, 2006 (Sat) 9 am Draw lots • 10am - 3pm Level E & D
2 - 6pm Level C & B • 5 - 9pm Loser's bracket
March 12, 2006 (Sun) 10am onwards simultaneous play
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Allied Bank sees slower growth, considers issuing hybrid capital instruments

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOBACCO MAGNATE LUCIO TAN'S Allied Banking Corp. may issue hybrid capital instruments qualified as tier 1 or core capital this year to comply with stiffer accounting and capital adequacy rules.

Expecting to post a "slightly lower" profit this year versus last year's net profit of P1.3 billion, Allied Bank is studying the use of hybrid tier 1 capital recently allowed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said Allied Bank president Reynaldo A. Maclang.

Hybrid tier 1 capital instruments have equity-like features, making these acceptable as Tier 1 capital.

These may be in the form of unsecured subordinated debt or preferred shares.

These instruments have no maturity, and are non-cumulative, which means that dividends or coupons that could not be paid in a financial year as a result of poor business performance will not be recovered in subsequent years.

Maclang said Allied Bank was preparing for the impact of the new International Accounting Standards and Basle 2 capital adequacy framework on its financial performance this year.

While the bank has adequate liquidity, Maclang said additional capital may be needed to boost its capital adequacy ratio, currently at about 10 percent of risk assets.

"We're ranked 11th or 12th among the (country's biggest) banks. We don't know yet how much we need. We're doing a study on it," Maclang said.

More tourists going to E. Visayas

THE EASTERN Visayas region is stepping up its campaign to entice tourists to see its sights, such as the Leyte Landing memorial in Palo.

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—FOREIGN tourist arrivals in Eastern Visayas went up 16 percent last year, according to the office here of the Department of Tourism.

Data from the DOT-8 records showed that of the 140,360 tourists that visited the different parts of the region last year, 11,445 were foreigners, up 16 percent from 9,864 in 2004.

Most of the foreigners were Americans, Koreans and Japanese, with a few Europeans.

Karina Tiopes, regional director, said the increase in the number of foreign visitors in the region was good news for the region's tourism industry.

"This is a positive development because this means that we are attracting our preferred tourists," Tiopes told the INQUIRER. "They are the ones that are really bringing in the dollars, which could really help our economy.

Tiopes said that based on the monitoring of different hotels, lodging houses and restaurants, almost all of the foreign visitors went to either Ormoc City or this city, the regional capital.

The two leading cities of the region had a combined 10,364 foreign visitors.

Calbayog City, in Samar, was able to lure 612 foreign visitors.

Of the provinces, Eastern Samar had the least foreign visitors at 29, while Biliran had the most at 208.

The tourism regional director, however, said the number of foreign visitors in the region could be higher as many establishments in the region did not provide the DOT with the needed data.

She said only 41 out of the more than a hundred tourism establishments in the region had provided them a copy of records of their clients.

She also noted that Eastern Visayas still lagged behind other tourist destinations in the Visayas.

Thus, Tiopes said the DOT was stepping up its campaign to attract more tourists here, including domestic travelers.

Tiopes said that while the region has natural wonders that could rival with those found in other parts of the country, the region still lacks the needed infrastructure, like better roads and facilities.

The presence of armed men, notably the New People's Army, in some parts of the region, has also turned off tourists, she said.

"The tourism industry is a very volatile industry. Any disruption in the peace and order in an area will surely affect the tourism industry," she said.

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ROUND-UP

Healthcare meets education

STI, THE PHILIPPINES' LARGEST NETWORK OF nursing colleges, has acquired a significant stake in Delos Santos Medical Center. To be renamed DLS-STI Medical Center, the new partnership combines the strength of a pioneer in healthcare services and the competitive edge of a leading information technology-based education institution.

The buy-in is part of STI's initiative to strengthen its Enrollment-to-Employment System, which covers every student's needs from the time he enrolls in STI to the moment he applies for a job.

One of the major components of the plan is to improve the facilities and capabilities of the new DLS-STI Medical Center. With fresh capital, a medical arts building and a state-of-the-art operating facility will be added to the existing infrastructure. DLS-STI will also set up satellite clinics around Metro Manila. In addition, the bed capacity will be doubled to 200 to accommodate more patients and complement its plan to improve hospital services.

According to STI president and CEO Monico V. Jacob, the DLS-STI Medical Center is expected to improve its revenues by an annual average growth of 30 to 35 percent starting this year. STI acquired a majority share in Delos Santos College in 2002 and turned it into DLS-STI College of Health Professions.

Roadshow off to Canada

DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes and Chamber of Mines of the Philippines president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez lead a 50-man delegation from the public and private sectors to attend the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Mining Conference.

The PDAC is the largest gathering of mining players in the world. With the increase in global demand for minerals, the Philippines expects to take advantage of investors' interest in the country following the revitalization of the local mining industry.

Following the successful participation of the Philippines in INDABA 2006, the government and the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines are presenting a special session at the PDAC 2006 Conference, entitled Republic of the Philippines: Opportunities in the Mining Sector.

The special session will showcase a range of mining opportunities in the country, enhanced by the government's policy of actively promoting and supporting the development of the local mining industry, and how companies are taking advantage of these opportunities.

LR takes on First Cagayan

PUBLICLY LISTED Leisure & Resorts World Corp. (LR) is taking over majority control of First Cagayan Leisure and Resorts Corp. In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, LR said it will subscribe to 40,000 new shares to be issued by First Cagayan at P800 a share for a total of P32 million.

Upon issuance of the shares, LR's ownership in First Cagayan will increase to about 50.75 percent from 35 percent.

First Cagayan is a service provider for the online gaming industry. On behalf of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, it also processes and approves the license applications of international operators wanting to locate within Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Free Port. As master licensor, it is also tasked to regulate and monitor all Internet gaming related activities to ensure compliance with established rules and regulations.

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Design effective performance management strategies...
Link performance to rewards...Cascade KPIs to Actions.

1 Developing Your Performance and Rewards Strategy
9 am to 5:30 pm, March 16, 2006
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

This seminar is designed for Human Resources Decision Makers and Professionals who are keen to lift performance through stronger links to rewards.

Coverage:
- Aligning performance and reward with the organization's culture, strategy, and business context
- Link between performance and reward
- Understanding performance and reward considerations
- Developing a performance and rewards strategy
- Developing the performance and reward framework
- How to document performance and rewards considerations and arrangements
- Setting performance and rewards expectations
- Measuring performance at organizational and individual levels
- How to differentiate standards of performance achieved and rewards to be allocated

2 Cascading KPIs into Actions
9 am to 5:30 pm, March 17, 2006
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

This seminar is designed for those who are responsible for the development of organizational KPIs and/or those who cascade business KPIs into individual KPIs.

Coverage:
- Performance management approaches and the link to KPIs
- Choosing the best framework to develop KPIs for the organization
- Setting organizational KPIs
- Cascading organizational KPIs into individual KPIs
- Designing targets and measures
- Setting individual KPIs, targets and processes
- Linking the KPIs with performance management processes and compensation

About the Facilitator
Ms. Prue Wietmeyer is a Senior Consultant with Mercer Human Resource Consulting. Prue's work focuses on reward, performance and talent management which involves developing reward strategies and structures, performance management systems, competency frameworks and career & talent management processes. She has worked with private, government and government-owned organizations to better improve their people strategies and management processes. Prue has worked in Mercer Australia and now, currently works for Mercer Taiwan, based in Taipei.

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iBlog, iPodcast: Citizen journalism using IT

SPECIAL REPORT

(First of four parts)

By Leo Magno

MONDAY MORNINGS WERE mundane for Malaysian Jeff Ooi. He would get up, go to work and analyze data about telecommunications companies.

But why did this business analyst for an advertising company find himself at the Selangor State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Feb. 28, 2005, instead of going to work Monday morning?

That morning, Ooi was interrogated by the CID. He was under investigation for a probable crime under Section 298A of the Penal Code of Malaysia which carries a penalty of two to five years' imprisonment. Ooi was threatened with detention under the Internal Security Act, which allows for detention without trial for up to two years. He also faced prosecution under the Sedition Act of Malaysia.

Anyone can be charged with sedition, and journalists are known to have had their fair share of such charges. But Ooi was not a journalist. Even as journalists use the proverbial pen as a weapon mightier than the sword, Ooi was not trained in the ways of the traditional media professional. And yet he wielded a weapon equally powerful.

And so for two hours, he found himself being interrogated in prison that morning.

Later on Oct. 23, 2005 in Singapore, 24-year-old photographer Lee Johnson almost got slapped with a three-year jail term and a fine of up to 5,000 Singapore dollars ($2,955) for violating Singapore's Sedition Act.

What could he have done to get the Singapore government's attention?

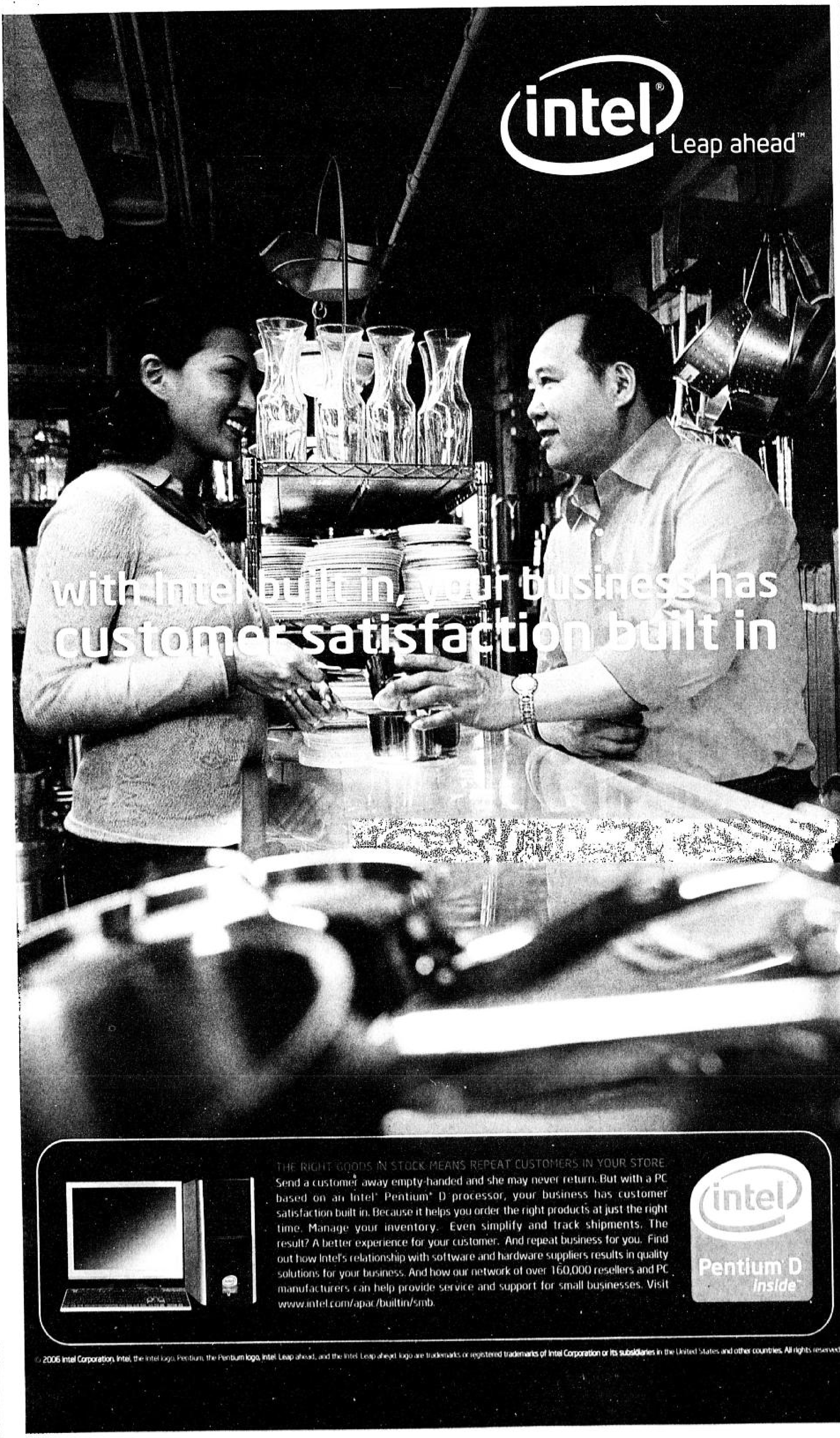
How did the voices of Ooi and Lee reach government in the first place? What medium did they use?

These two private Asian individuals had something in common with many others across the region. Ooi and Lee were not part of traditional media, and yet they got the attention of hundreds of thousands of people. In so doing, they also got the attention of their respective governments which— using citizens' vulnerability to strict state sedition and censorship laws—slowly began to squeeze at that open wound.

So what do an advertising analyst and a photographer have in common?

Ooi is a blogger. Lee is a podcaster. They used new media but they did not get training on the methods employed by traditional media people such as newspaper journalists, radio announcers or TV reporters. Neither do they appear in any traditional medium like newspapers, radio nor TV. Still, their voices were heard, resulting in the near-filing of sedition charges for Ooi and Lee.

In the case of Ooi who has been



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intel

SMBs GUIDE TO BUYING PCS

Whether buying your first PC or creating a network, your computer should be tailored to your company's needs. Below are the top 10 things to consider when purchasing PCs.

1. Why do you need this computer?
Knowing how the PC will be used is a good way to determine the right PC for your business.

2. Beware of refurbished computers
Although upgrading components to extend your computer's life may superficially cost less than a ready-made computer, it can be less reliable and may cost more in the long run.

3. Laptop or Desktop?
If your employees constantly need access to company data on the go, laptops are the best solution. With wireless technology like Intel® Centrino® Duo, your employees can connect to the Internet in most international airports and cafés.

4. Software-- where to start?
Windows*, Macintosh OS*, and Linux* all have their strengths. Use what you are comfortable with, and what you need to accomplish your most important tasks.

5. Extras?
If you plan on running professional programs or have some very specialized tasks, you may need to add extra components to your computer, such as a video card with graphics accelerator, digital cameras, web cams, etc.

6. Don't Skimp on Security!
You cannot afford to risk your business's data. Make sure your computer is powerful enough to run anti-virus software while not disrupting other programs.

7. Memory
For basic applications, you should have at least 256 Megabytes (MB) of RAM while you should have a minimum of 512MB for graphics programs. Basic word processing requires a hard drive that is 40Gigabytes (GB) but if you are dealing with a lot of images, music, or other large files, you should invest in at least 80GB.

8. Power
Again, consider how the computer will be used. If you often use compute intensive programs or do a lot of multitasking, then invest in the Intel® Pentium® D processor supporting Hyper-Threading Technology for desktop PCs. Meanwhile, the Intel® Centrino® Duo is the best bet for notebooks.

9. Cheaper isn't always better
Your computer is an investment that should provide three years of optimal performance for a desktop PC and two years for a notebook. It should also provide headroom and flexibility for new software or more demanding usage patterns over time. IT should be a long-term relationship, so select a company and brand you can trust.

10. Don't be dazed by sales lingo
Knowing a few essential PC terms will help you navigate through a sales pitch. Get to know what you need in a PC before going to the store and buying one.

###

*Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

Hyper-Threading Technology requires a computer system with an Intel® Pentium® D processor supporting HT Technology and a HT Technology enabled chipset, BIOS and operating system. Performance will vary depending on the specific hardware and software you use. See www.intel.com/info/hyperthreading for more information including details on which processors support HT Technology

http://www.pcworld.com/howto/bguide/0,guid,14,page,2,00.asp

ADVT

blogging for three years, his online journal entries were first noticed by Malaysiakini (http://www. malaysiakini.com/), a news website that is purely online with no traditional media counterpart. His blog called Screenshots (http://www.jeffooi.com/) was linked to the news website in April 2003, expanding Ooi's readership base. However, it was on Oct. 3, 2004 when he was first noticed by the mainstream press, being lambasted in an editorial of the New Straits Times which is owned by ruling political party Umno (United Malays National Organization).

On Sept. 30, 2004, Ooi posted on Screenshots his views about Umno. The discussion outlined the contradiction between the values of Islam Hadhari, a theory of government based on the principles of Islam, and the alleged corruption of the ruling Malaysian party. But in mentioning dominant party Umno in his blog, Ooi ran against the government itself and hit a sensitive spot. The Umno party's New Straits Times naturally retaliated, slamming Ooi in its Oct. 3, 2004 editorial. Soon, Ooi's name was in all the major newspapers in Malaysia. Ooi did not relent in questioning Umno policies, and eventually was drawn into a word war with New Straits Times Group editor in chief Kalimullah Hassan who referred to Ooi in an editorial as a "mere unknown blogger."

Four months later on that fateful Monday morning of Feb. 28, 2005, Ooi was brought in for questioning by the Selangor State CID.

The New Straits Times Group has banned its employees from reading Ooi's blog. Today, the New Straits Times and sister-publication Berita Harian continue criticizing Ooi in behalf of ruling party Umno. The New Straits Times alone has a nationwide readership of 429,000 a day. Ooi fought back through his blog, which gets about 15,000 visits a day.

But this was not a battle of who had more readers. The point is how the blog of an individual citizen, through his own funding and effort and with no training in media, could in a span of three years merit the attention of a well-established news corporation like New Straits Times which has been around since 1845. Why would the newspaper even care? Why would its owners, the ruling Umno party, even worry about what a "mere unknown blogger" said? Why would a big newspaper publishing group issue an order not to read the posts of one particular blogger?

Lee of Singapore could probably relate to what Ooi went through.

On Sept. 12, 2005, the Singapore government invoked the Sedition Act—the first time in 10 years and the first time for an online case—to charge with sedition bloggers Nicholas Lim Yew, 25, and Benjamin Koh Song Huat, 27, for posting allegedly racist comments. On Sept. 16, blogger Gan Huai Shi, a 17-year-old student, was charged on seven counts of "promoting ill-will" in Singapore under Section 29 of the Sedition Act. It is a known fact that, charged with sedition, Singaporeans face prison terms of up to three years if convicted.

Lee said he did not know any of the three bloggers, but he was questioning the all-encompassing Sedition Act and how it was used against them.

Lee said the Sedition Act had never before been used in Singapore against individuals, and that the three bloggers were separately charged as individuals in September. He believed this law was being used to attack individuals' right to free speech. In protest, he put up a podcast at a blog called TheDiatribe (http://guisediatribe.blogpsot.com/) which he jointly constructed with friends. The blog was a personal one and was not political in nature, but Lee felt so strongly about the September sedition cases that he made a digital recording of his comments and turned it into a podcast so that, quite literally, his voice would be heard. Little did he know that, during the heat of the issue in Singapore, the Media Development Authority would also train its sights on him.

Lee was "gently reminded" by the government that he, too, could be subjected to charges of sedition if he continued to go where he was going. Lee tore down the podcast from TheDiatribe blog and left the other non-sensitive and non-political ones untouched.

Lee admitted that he had, indeed, been censored and came close to being charged with sedition the same way the three bloggers were in September. Still, he could not understand why the government would be afraid of his opinion because, he said, his podcast was not popular anyway and he was merely updating it as a hobby.

Indeed, what were they afraid of? Why would a government have an individual podcaster's views be censored?

Here we see state pressures clamping down on citizens. We are not even discussing freedom of the press here, for Ooi and Lee are not press people. But in these two examples, the same forces are clamping down on individuals. Why would individual citizens' views affect others when they do not have the reach of traditional media like newspapers, radio or TV?

Or do they?

Perhaps individual citizens are already empowered to the point that governments are realizing that, through new media such as blogs and podcasts, they could already rouse the rabble that are online.

Perhaps government is realizing that, like views from traditional media, views from the grassroots are also becoming influential, necessitating control measures before their influence and power become even greater.

On the traditional media front, why would established newspapers like New Straits Times pick on a lone blogger like Malaysia's Ooi? Could this also be acknowledgment that individual voices, with the help of new media, are gaining in strength and deserve an audience? Could it be that traditional media feel threatened?

"Sometimes mainstream newspapers pick up topics that are being discussed in blogs and develop them into stories," Ooi said. "So they get developed as news items in mainstream—they start from blogs then are picked up by mainstream media and then hopefully they reach the pinnacle of administration. So we hope government becomes responsive through blogging efforts."

So now we see an upward direction in the information flow, or what citizen journalism advocate Dan Gillmor refers to as "bottom-up communications." From the citizens, views are expressed through new media such as blogs and podcasts. Media pick up those news and views and put them on to the mainstream. From the mainstream, the bloggers and podcasters get recognized and hopefully those views would be heard by state and economic leaders.

"We need to promote blogs and promote grassroots journalism," said Ooi. "We need to dismantle the power paradigm, that is, the power talking down to the people. It has to be the other way around."

In concrete terms, Ooi and Lee were not just bloggers and podcasters. Citizen Ooi was questioning Umno policies in Malaysia and citizen Lee was questioning the Sedition Act of Singapore.

An upward spiral of views from the grassroots to decision-makers requires two things: realization and acknowledgment. Traditional media, government and commerce should first realize that the top-down approach no longer works in a connected knowledge economy where information cannot be monopolized nor restrained. Then comes acknowledgment that yes, indeed, the individual voices of citizens matter and that the agenda should be set by them.

Perhaps that is why censorship and sedition charges are being thrown at individual bloggers and podcasters. Perhaps they are growing more and more influential, and the old power base is being threatened.

We'll discuss this next week.

(To be continued)

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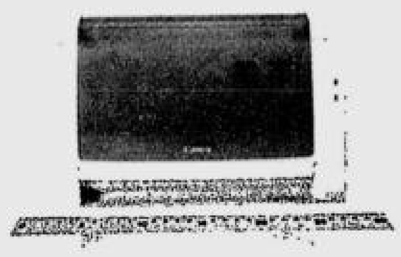
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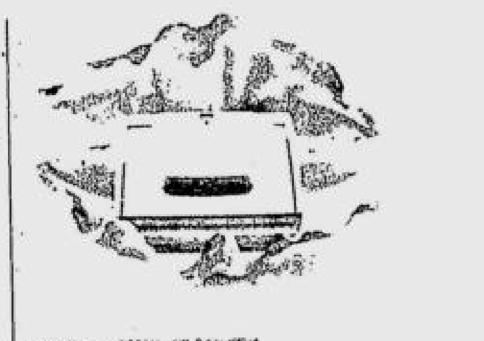
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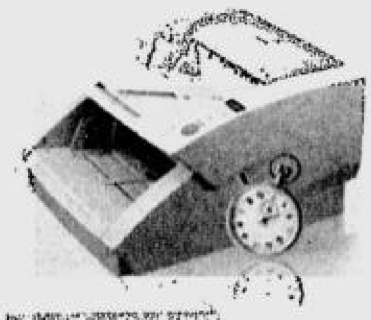
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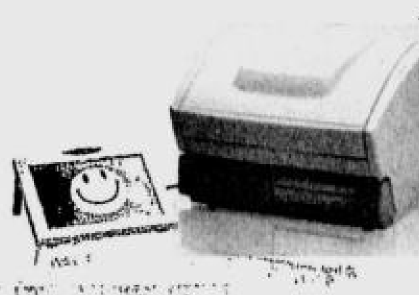
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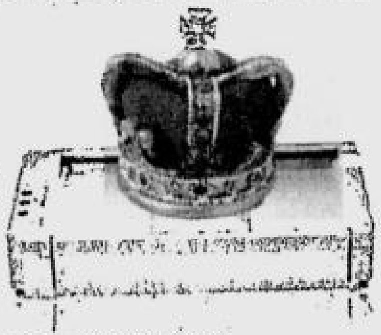
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Ayala unit sees ₱1B in revenues from new contracts

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CORP. (APMC), the wholly owned facilities management arm of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), expects to churn out P1 billion in total revenues from new contracts over the next two years, APMC president Raul M. Irlanda said.

To date, APMC has generated P800 million in revenues from management contracts involving waterworks, construction, parking lots and, recently, Terminals 2 and 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and the International School in Manila.

APMC's contract with NAIA 2 and 3—under which the firm will manage front terminal activities—will run for three years beginning 2005.

APMC also manages facilities of the Ayala Corp. and other institutional accounts.

This year alone, APMC hopes to secure P100 million in additional institutional accounts and the management of 1,350 new parking slots. Irlanda said APMC has been invited by a large private hospital to manage its parking lot area. APMC now manages a total of 12,000 parking slots in the Makati area.

This year, APMC aims to raise P100 million in additional revenues from new contracts.

APMC recently gained a triple certification for occupational health and safety from the Certification International Philippines Inc.

APMC is engaged in integrated property management services, including building administration and maintenance, lease administration activities, commercial center and subdivision maintenance, and special technical services. It continues to provide property management services for shopping centers, subdivision, parking structures, waterworks operations and other properties developed by Ayala Land and its subsidiaries.

APMC is also known for managing strategic parking facilities, office and residential towers in the Philippines' premier business district. It pioneered in automating parking operations and continues to introduce similar innovations in other areas of operation, such as recycling water from households for non-potable uses.

APMC introduced the automated carpark management system in parking structures, such as the Greenbelt Mall, Dela Rosa 1 & 2, Makati Medical Center, Makati Avenue Steel, Ayala Avenue Steel, Park Square 1 & 2, and Glorietta 4.

Among its services, APMC runs a building management system, operating structures like Tower One & Exchange Plaza, 6750, and the Makati Stock Exchange. This system enables the monitoring of elevators, fire prevention, security and other building functions from a central office.

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Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	-	500,000
Calatagan Golf	Pls. Call	40,000
Camp John Hay	-	180,000
Canlubang Golf	490,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	60,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,350,000
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	-	390,000
Club Filipino	110,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	330,000*	150,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	90,000
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	120,000/200,000*	150,000*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,500,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,000,000
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods A/B*	350,000/Pls. Call*	300,000/700,000*
Makati Sports Club	150,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	350,000	350,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	90,000
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	150,000/300,000*/400,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	250,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	160,000/Pls. Call*/400,000**	150,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/150,000*/250,000**	130,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	180,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	80,000*
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,550,000*
The Palms Country Club	550,000	360,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	310,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	630,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	140,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
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Baguio Country Club	520,000	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	20,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	50,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	180,000
Canlubang	500,000	480,000
Capitol Hills	60,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,350,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	150,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	90,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,300,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	-	2,250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	340,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	350,000	300,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	90,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	160,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	275,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	140,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	140,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	400,000	-
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	190,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,350,000	6,175,000

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CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	500K	CAMP JOHN HAY	180K
CLUB FILIPINO	90K	CANYON WOODS	100K
COUNTRY CLUB @ TGYTAY	350K	CLUB FILIPINO	80K
FOREST HILLS A/B	100/180K	EASTRIDGE B	110K
HACIENDA LUISITA A	PLS CALL	EAGLE RIDGE B	330K
MANILA GOLF IND	11.3M	MANILA GOLF IND	PLS CALL
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.5M	MANILA GOLF CORP.	PLS. CALL
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	330K	MANILA POLO CLUB	2.3M
MANILA YACHT CLUB	350K	MIMOSA GOLF	PLS. CALL
PUNTA FUEGO	450K	ORCHARD C	350K
ROCKWELL CLUB	PLS. CALL	QUEZON CITY SPORTS	140K
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Del Monte sets aside $8M for expansion

DEL MONTE PACIFIC LTD., OWNED BY FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. and the Campos Group, is setting aside $8 million (roughly P400 million) for capital expenditures this year, according to its disclosure to the Singaporean bourse.

Part of the fund would be used as Del Monte explores non-traditional packaging formats for its products, such as glass jars and plastic cups, due to higher growth potential and margins compared with increasingly expensive cans.

"But this does not mean that we will drop the canned segment altogether as this is still our core business," Del Monte Pacific said in a briefing note.

"Even within the canned category, there are certain segments which offer growth potential such as the tropical fruit. We are happy to have made meaningful sales of these value-added products to the global markets in 2005."

Del Monte also said it hoped to duplicate its success in the Philippines in its other markets, like China and India.

Sales in the Philippines grew 11 percent in the fourth quarter last year with strong growth in the tomato-based product segment.

Del Monte launched new products here, particularly in the grocery segment, such as Piña Colada 202 drink and marinades, and new products in the food segment, such as Del Monte Coffee and Tea syrups, Maple and All Purpose Light syrup and Party Mixers.

What may put a dent on growth is the implementation of the expanded Value Added Tax (VAT) Law in the Philippines, which is expected to impact on operating results.

Del Monte said that for its other markets, it will cap expenses and focus on export development.

"The China market is a difficult one. We will capitalize on its strength as the low cost supplier of apple, and same for India, as the low cost supplier of mango, to offer export products to the international market," Del Monte said.

"In the Philippines, we continue to develop new products and add new distribution channels."

Del Monte also said its new owners were studying all of its operations.

"When talking of change , we would rather focus on the positive changes they can bring," Del Monte said when asked about changes to management or possible retrenchments in light of its takeover by NutriAsia and San Miguel. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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(As of March 3, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	35	34	35	798,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	59	59	1,720,200
China Banking Corp.	660	660	655	655	690
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.47	6,580,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65	65	64	64.5	97,900
International Exch. Bank	25.5	25.5	25	25	12,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35.5	34	34	2,886,100
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	3,000
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	1,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	100
Security Bank Corp.	38	38	38	38	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	35	35.5	34.5	35.5	59,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	850,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	147	149	147	149	16,450
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2200	2210	2200	2210	580
Ivantage Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	7,710,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45	45	44.5	44.5	314,600
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	44	42.5	43.5	842,500
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13	12.75	12.75	65,200
Manila Electric Co. B	19.25	19.5	19	19.25	798,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	3,520,000
Petron Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	9,526,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	360,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	44,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.5	20.5	19.75	19.75	43,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36	35	36	107,700
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	62	61	61.5	55,400
San Miguel Corp. B	84	84.5	83.5	83.5	164,800
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	1,085,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	530,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,960,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.26	1,638,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	2,724,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	3,000,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	345	350	345	345	198,970
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	470,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.95	312,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	2,055,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	210,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	870,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	9,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	12,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.97	2,780,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.05	47,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.94	2.08	1.94	2.06	6,546,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.95	746,000
Medco Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	3,060,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	200,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	12,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	2,400,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	870,000
SM Investments Corp.	226	226	223	224	103,250
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	1,710,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11	7,162,600
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	390,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	1,226,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	91,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.22	7,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	8,570,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	180,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.22	1.26	1.2	1.22	1,952,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	270,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,360,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.5	1.4	1.44	29,752,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.34	3,890,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.33	0.34	6,010,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	34,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	1,070,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	60,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.9	3,004,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	900,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	18,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.88	850,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	845	880	845	855	21,110
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.25	4,786,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1810	1840	1805	1825	45,790
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	3,400,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	7,100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	9,500,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	60,000
Philweb Corp.	0.026	0.027	0.025	0.026	254,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	7,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	937,800
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.99	370,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.74	2,058,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	1,140,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.15	38,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.9	8.3	7.9	8.2	4,725,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.22	1.22	1.12	1.14	378,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	52,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.9	3,306,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	70,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	4,580,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	216,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	4,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.006	225,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.7	1.72	1.68	1.7	8,423,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.86	1.9	1.84	1.84	8,538,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	13,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	200,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	5,870,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	190,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	120,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.95	3.85	3.95	51,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.25	11.75	11.25	11.75	69,300

CURRENCIES

March 5, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.830358	1.000000	51.2600
Japan	Yen	0.007170	0.008635	0.4426
United Kingdom	Pound	1.457112	1.754800	89.9510
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107041	0.128909	6.6079
Switzerland	Franc	0.639770	0.770475	39.4945
Canada	Dollar	0.733986	0.883939	45.3107
Singapore	Dollar	0.514599	0.619732	31.7675
Australia	Dollar	0.619716	0.746324	38.2566
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.203418	2.653576	136.0223
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221429	0.266667	13.6694
Brunei	Dollar	0.513010	0.617818	31.6694
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000109	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021495	0.025887	1.3270
UAE	Dirham	0.226083	0.272272	13.9567
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.204300	61.7324
Argentina	Peso	0.271138	0.326531	16.7380
Brazil	Real	0.393367	0.473732	24.2835
India	Rupee	0.018795	0.022635	1.1603
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224027	0.269796	13.8297
Mexico	New Peso	0.078882	0.094998	4.8696
South Africa	Rand	0.136051	0.163846	8.3987
Korea	Won	0.000857	0.001032	0.0529
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025708	0.030960	1.5870

Filinvest allocates . . .

From page B4

2,000 square meters.

Some buildings could be built to suit the needs of the tenants, she said, similar to the HSBC building, which had 3,600-square-meter floor plates.

The new six-storey Plaza A and Plaza D buildings will boost Filinvest's aggregate leasing portfolio in the IT park to 60,000 square meters from the current 40,000 square meters.

Plaza A, which already had "a contact center of a distinguished service company" leasing three of its six floors, would likely be 100-percent leased by next month, Gotianun-Yap said.

Measure expected to boost energy sector

By Abigail L. Ho

THE RENEWABLE Energy Act of 2006, which the House committee on energy recently approved, is expected to boost investments in the sector and effect a "radical" change in the country's energy mix.

In a statement over the weekend, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the perks contained in the bill should encourage potential investors to infuse capital into the renewable energy sector.

Some of the incentives included in the bill are exemptions from tariff duties and zero-rated value-added tax for the importation of machinery and equipment for the first 10 years of an operating contract, as well as tax credit on domestic capital equipment and services.

Right now, even without the bill, several incentives are already being provided for the development of renewable energy resources.

With the bill, Lotilla said the country's dependence on imported oil should go down to 30 percent in 2010 from the present 37.3 percent.

For Global Steel, viability comes in a protectionist package

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FORMER NATIONAL STEEL CORP. MAY be counting out the days when Malacañang will implement protectionist measures that will ensure the viability of the country's steel industry by increasing tariffs on imported steel products.

The government is expected to come out with a set of guidelines that will determine whether Global Steel Philippines Inc. has attained full commercial operations status before increasing the tariffs.

GSPI, a subsidiary of London-based Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd., had earlier asked for incentives. But government said this would only come about when the steel firm was fully operational.

An official privy to the matter said the Cabinet-level Committee on Tariffs and Related Matters have already approved a draft of the guidelines.

In 2004, Malacañang issued Executive Order No. 375, which provides for an increase in steel tariffs imported from Southeast Asia.

As stated in EO 375, the increase in tariffs is meant to address the need for an "enabling environment for the local iron and steel industry to attain international competitiveness."

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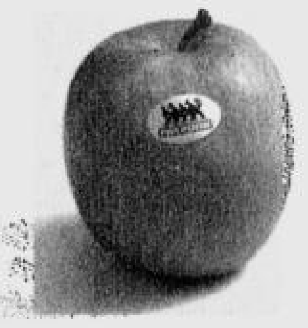

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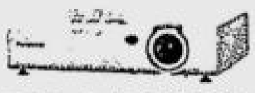
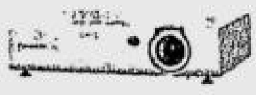
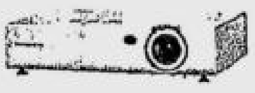


PT-LB20NT
wireless

Daylight View



PT-LB20



PT-LB20S

PT-LB20V
Micro Portable
1,600-2,000 Ansi Lumens

PT-LB30NT
wireless

PT-LB30
Micro Portable
3,000 Ansi Lumens

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PT-AE900
Home Theater
1,100Lumens
5,500:1 Contrast

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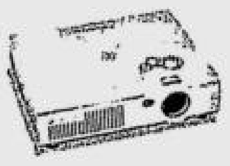
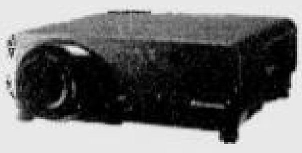


PT-LM2
Multi Purpose
1,400 Ansi Lumens

PT-D5500
5,000 Lumens

PT-D3500
3,500 Lumens
Fixed Installation



PT-D7700
7,000 Lumens

PT-DW7000
6,000 Lumens
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*Peacefully joined our Lord
on March 2, 2006 at the age of 88.*

His bereaved family, **Oma** and **Conrad** (†), **Ching** and **Teddy**, **Myrna** and **Eric**, **Ruben** and **Linda**, **David** (†) and **Chit**, **George** and **Aida**, **Danny** and **Tess**, **Charing** and **Hanzel**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 7, Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at the Divine Providence Family Court after the 3:00 p.m. funeral Mass.

DEATH NOTICE

Dr. Stephen G. Reyes

Died on March 1, 2006.

His body lies at St. Therese of Child Jesus Chapel, UP College, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be on March 12, 2006.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Our beloved and cherished sister

TRINIDAD ROSA G. FERNANDEZ

(Tubby Rose)
Born June 14, 1947

*Died in the peace of the Lord March 2, 2006
in Valhalla, New York*

We will celebrate her life at Memorial masses on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the chapel of the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club, City of Mandaluyong, and on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Church, Hartsdale, New York.

Interment in the Philippines will be announced later.

We, her bereaved family, request you to remember her in your prayers as we thank God for her vibrant and shining presence in our lives.

Nympha and Imre Weitzner
Marie and Herman Santiago
Leonor G. Beltran
nephew Richard Fernandez and wife, Laura
niece, Liesl Vazquez and husband, Steven
niece, Nicole Hope Weitzner, and
grandnephews, Andrew and Steven Vazquez

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PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Formerly Public Estates Authority)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE VEHICLES

The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) is offering for sale, on an "as-is, where-is" basis the following Unserviceable Vehicles:

1. Items for sale

Item No.	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1	1995 MITSUBISHI L-200 (SFN-380) D/Cab, Pick-up Diesel Fed, Black	P 131,400.00
2	1993 TOYOTA CORONA (ADN-103) 2.0 4-door Sedan, Gasoline Fed, Silver	P 102,960.00
3	1995 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX (SED-677) Wagon, Diesel Fed, Gray	P 56,500.00
4	1993 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX (SEV-678) HSPUR, Diesel Fed, White	P 37,224.00
5	1993 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX (SEK-109) HSPUR, Diesel Fed, Red	P 37,224.00
6	1992 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX (TDH-237) HSPUR, Gasoline Fed, Blue	P 52,026.00
7	1991 TOYOTA LITE ACE (TAK-995) Commuter, Gasoline Fed, White	P 38,375.00
8	1990 TOYOTA COROLLA (SEV-523) 4-door Sedan, Gasoline Fed, Silver	P 27,170.00
9	1995 TOYOTA TAMARAW FX (SED-729) Wagon, Gasoline Fed, Blue	P 46,916.00
10	1990 KIA CERES (SEA-799) 4 x 2 HSPUR Diesel Fed, Red	P 71,920.00
11	1993 TOYOTA CORONA (UHH-206) 2.0 4-door Sedan, Gasoline Fed	P 99,165.00
12	1993 HONDA MOTORCYCLE (SB-9726) 125cc Gasoline Fed, Red	P 3,800.00
13	1993 HONDA MOTORCYCLE (SB-9776) 125cc Gasoline Fed, Red	P 3,800.00
14	1993 HONDA MOTORCYCLE (SB-9716) 125cc Gasoline Fed, Red	P 3,800.00
15	One (1) Lot Junk Unserviceable Motor Vehicles	P 39,000.00/lot
16	One (1) Lot Junk Unserviceable Motorcycles Units	P 1,650.00/lot

2. Interested parties may obtain the Terms and Conditions and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting 07 March to 20 March 2006 from 9:00AM to 5:00PM at the Administrative Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.
3. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on 14 March 2006 at 2:00PM at the PRA Conference Room.
4. Duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms and Conditions shall be submitted to the PRA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 28 March 2006 on or before 1:30PM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 2:00PM of the same day.
5. PRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to its interest, without any obligation on the part of PRA to explain the reasons thereof.
6. In the event that the public bidding becomes a failure, the PRA reserves the right to accept proposals for the above items for sale.
7. For inquiries, please contact Engr. Danilo Almoite or Ms. Lilian Tabinga at telephone number 817-47-11 local 174.

(Sgd.) PELAGIO B. LALAP
Chairman- PREBAC

(PDI--March 4, 5 & 6, 2006)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority invites prospective developers/ proponents contractors who have undertaken design, finance, construction and development of similar projects to enter and undertake the proposed 24,161-square meter **NAMRIA EMPLOYEES MEDIUM RISE HOUSING PROJECT** located in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

The said project entails the preparation of feasibility studies, design, preparation of plans and drawings, securing of the necessary permits and licenses, provision of funding, and the construction and marketing of completed medium rise housing units to benefit qualified employees of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).

A. Checklist of requirements for eligibility of the point venture developers/ partners and other pertinent documents relative thereto are available for examination upon submission of a letter of intent addressed to the Chairman, Inter-agency Bids and Awards Committee for the NAMRIA Employees MRH Project, National Housing Authority and may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 500.00 at the NHA-NCR Area Management Office, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City not later than **March 10, 2006**. The BAC Secretariat may be contacted at Tel. Nos. 928-4561 Local 181 and 182.

B. Deadline of submission of eligibility documents is on **March 21, 2006** not later than 5:00 o'clock p.m. at the Office of the Assistant General Manager.

C. All eligible bidders shall be informed later on the date of issuance of the project's Terms of Reference and other bid documents, which shall be made available only upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000.00.

D. Prospective developers/partners shall be evaluated based on financial and technical capability, experience, and track record. Proposal shall be selected based on the architectural and engineering design, project amenities, selling prices, marketing plan and project duration.

E. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive formalities on any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) FROILAN R. KAMPITAN
Assistant General Manager, NHA
Chairman, Inter-agency Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 6 & 13, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
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E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP6,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) Unit Brand New Boom Truck. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *Supply and Delivery of One (1) Unit Brand New Boom Truck*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 06 to 17 March 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP3,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 22 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 03 April 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on 03 April, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the Bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website. www.peza.gov.ph

BAC Chairman

(PDI – March 6 & 13, 2006)

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Send Resume to:
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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section of R A Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **ANTONIO III CASTRO PIZARRO** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **ANTHONY ROMMEL** to **ANTONIO III** in the birth certificate of **ANTONIO III CASTRO PIZARRO** who was born on May 19, 1959 at Sta. Cruz, Manila and whose parents are **Antonio Jr. A. Pizarro and Resurreccion Castro.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this Office not later than March 24,2006

(Sgd.) MELISA R. CAVALIDA
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - Feb 27 & March 6, 2006)

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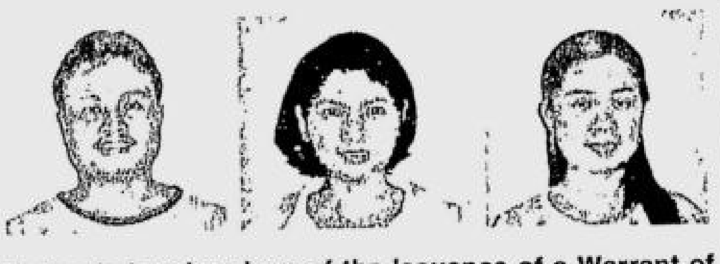

Notice is hereby given of the Issuance of a Warrant of Arrest by Branch 3, Regional Trial Court of Manila against Benigno Dela Peña Ignacio, Evelyn Echas Agito, and Catherine Buag Dee (left to right) whose picture-appear above in connection with Criminal Case No. 04-231987 for Qualified Theft. Any information leading to their lawful arrest, please contact Autophil Marketing Corporation Tel 7322371 Elsie.

(PDI-March 6, 2006)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the Public that Philam Savings Bank, Inc. Official Receipt Numbers 06269 to 06300 and Receipt for Post-Dated Checks Numbers 216123 to 216150 have been lost. Philam Savings Bank, Inc. will not honor the same.

(PDI - March 6 2006)

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Japanese business sentiment on RP improving

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PESSIMISM THAT PREVAILED among Japanese firms over business prospects in the Philippines in the past months has started to diminish, a monthly survey by the Japan External Trade Organization showed.

The survey covered Japanese firms here and in other Southeast Asian countries.

The survey indicated that the Japanese investors' business confidence in the Philippines had improved slightly in February to -0.4 from -1.4 the previous month.

The improvement was noted despite an overall decline in business confidence in the region.

Jetro data showed that Japanese companies and affiliates doing business in the Philippines have given the country a negative diffusion index rating in the past 10 months.

Also, the report said business sentiment on the country in the next two or three months might drop substantially to a rating of -4.4.

The report did not mention the political turmoil that happened in the last week of February, probably because the survey was completed earlier in the month.

Further, Jetro said the overall sentiment on the original members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—including Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore—declined in February "as these countries struggled to cope with rising interest rates and inflation, as well as the weakening domestic demand."

The aim of the survey is to provide up-to-date information on business conditions in Asian economies to help companies develop more effective business strategies.

Jetro polls the companies to measure year-on-year changes in their business outlooks for the current month and the next two or three months. The answers are expressed in 'DI,' which is derived from the difference between the ratio of positive and negative responses.

Firms were asked to compare earnings prospects, supply and demand, inventory, sales prices and accounts receivable with the same period a year earlier.

When Jetro started the monthly poll in June 2001, the Philippines rated negative in first 10 months with the DI rating bottoming at negative 40.9 in December 2001 and peaking at 22.9 in September 2004.

In the last 12 months, the Philippines posted a DI rating of 1.9 in January 2005 and hit a low of -8.6 last June.

DA gets ₱1B in additional budget for '06

THE GOVERNMENT WILL INFUSE ADDITIONAL P1 billion into the farm sector to increase rice production by at least 300,000 metric tons, the Department of Agriculture said.

The additional funds were deemed necessary by the country's economic managers to accelerate the growth of the economy this year, Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said Friday.

Panganiban said this would form part of the pump-priming efforts that were intended to jack up the country's rice production to 14.9 million metric tons and cut down imports this year. The production target is higher than the 14.6 million metric tons of rice produced last year.

The agriculture sector, which accounts for a fifth of the gross domestic products, grew by only 2.24 percent in 2005.

The Department of Agriculture is targeting to double this to at least 4 percent this year.

He said the additional budget would be used to repair irrigation dams and build additional catch basins in preparation for the excess rainfall arising from the La Niña weather phenomenon.

The La Niña, which may shorten the summer months this year, may also help improve rice production this year.

"However, this will entail more farm support—access to credit, seeds and other inputs—for a about 3.5 million farmers in the countryside," Panganiban added.

The additional amount will increase the DA's budget to P4 billion.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council earlier approved the release of some P3 billion for the repair of existing irrigation facilities and construction of new ones to cover 1.2 million hectares of farmlands nationwide. Some P500 million would be earmarked for the purchase and distribution of inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.

Panganiban said the scheduled repair of these facilities had been postponed for more than one year due to slow disbursement of funds.

GOINGS-ON

Filshutters turns 33

FILIPINAS SHUTTERS INC., the country's largest manufacturer of roll-up shutters and steel flush doors, is introducing new overhead coiling /shutter door designs to mark its 33rd year in the business.

Called the Eco-Shutters and the Metalite Flush Door, the designs will be introduced at the Worldbex 2006.

The new products are the company's answer to the growing demand for more economical, termite-free and sturdy flush door. During the event, other products will be featured. These are the UL Classified (10 C Rated) steel flush door, the FSI Bullet Stopper Door and the Classic Shutters.

Employers' conference

THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION of the Philippines will hold the 27th National Conference of Employers on May 22 and 23, 2006, at the Manila Hotel.

This year's conference adopted the theme, "Survive, Compete, Succeed."

The conference organizing committee this year is headed by Cesar Mario O. Mamon, chair and president of Enchanted Kingdom.

WolfPac names prexy, CEO

WOLFPAC MOBILE INC., the mobile applications developer and content provider arm of Smart Communications Inc., recently named Ray C. Espinosa as its president and chief executive officer.

Also, WolfPac co-founder Rayna Lyn Demerre-Roxas was appointed chief operating officer.

Espinosa is also the concurrent president and CEO of ePLDT Inc. (ePLDT), the wholly-owned ICT subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company. Prior to joining PLDT in 2000, Espinosa was a law partner in SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan.

Bridge program lauded

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and Industry praised the President's Bridge Program, which has so far constructed 1,213 permanent modular steel bridges throughout the country, for promoting economic growth in the countryside.

PCCI president Donald Dee said that because of the bridge-building program, more Filipinos, especially those in the countryside, have gained ready access to farm-to-market roads.

Dee said the bridge program complemented the Strong Republic Nautical Highways, and, if properly implemented and maintained, would increase economic activities in the country.

The President's Bridge Program is financed by a grant from the government of the United Kingdom. Consistent with a UK-Philippines protocol, British bridge construction firm Mabey and Johnson was designated the sole supplier of steel bridge materials for PBP. Mabey and Johnson is the only British company that manufactures pre-fabricated panel style permanent steel bridges.

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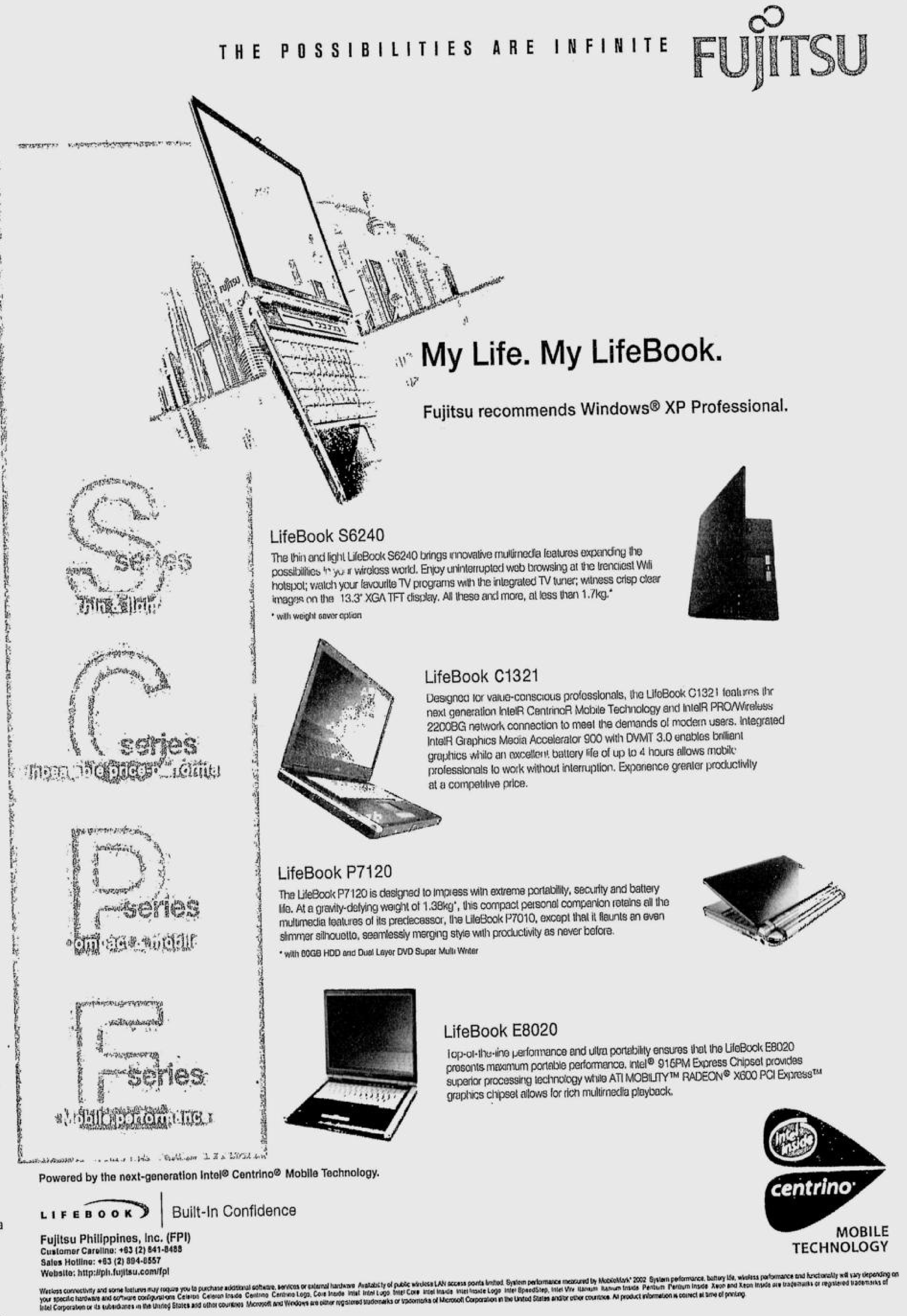
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The thin and light LifeBook S6240 brings innovative multimedia features expanding the possibilities in your wireless world. Enjoy uninterrupted web browsing at the trendiest Wifi hotspot; watch your favourite TV programs with the integrated TV tuner; witness crisp clear images on the 13.3" XGA TFT display. All these and more, at less than 1.7kg.*
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Businesses thriving, banks on alert, surveys say

WASHINGTON—THE GLOBAL ECONOMY HAS accelerated sharply again this year, according to worldwide business surveys, which show many sectors in their best shape for several years.

The fresh surge in activity at manufacturing and service sector companies in the United States, Europe and Asia will only solidify plans by the world's major central banks to further tighten credit conditions to head off inflation, economists said.

Compilations of monthly national surveys of some 10,000 businesses around the globe show the world's private sector economy at large expanded output in February at its fastest rate since mid-2004.

"February saw a broad-based, rapid global expansion," said David Hensley, director of global economics coordination at JP Morgan, adding the surveys were consistent with an acceleration in annualized world gross domestic product growth to 4 percent from about 3 percent in the final months of 2005.

The rebound among euro zone firms was most remarkable, with the region's long-struggling service sector growing at its fastest pace since the peak of the worldwide information technology boom in 2000.

Indicators of growth in new orders and hiring worldwide also picked up again last month, while elevated input price gauges eased a touch as energy costs leveled off.

A global index of private-sector output, compiled by JP Morgan from the national surveys of factory and service firms, jumped 1.7 points in February to a 19-month high of 58.3. A reading above 50 shows business is expanding.

The new orders index climbed to 57.1 from 56.4 in January, while high input price growth moderated to 62.4 from 62.8.

But a leap of nearly three points in the global employment index to 54.4 was seen as the most encouraging sign of how sustainable the overall global economic expansion might be.

The latest survey data come a day after the European Central Bank raised interest rates on Thursday for the second time in three months to a three-year high of 2.5 percent and signaled further credit tightening was likely.

Speculation is also intense the Bank of Japan will, as soon as this month, end years of a super-easy monetary policy of pumping excess cash into its banking system as a way of pinning market interest rates close to zero.

Expectations are also high that further interest rises are due from the US Federal Reserve despite 14 consecutive Fed rate hikes that have brought official US interest rates to 4.5 percent from 1.0 percent in just over 18 months.

Friday's surveys showed growth in euro zone services jumped to its highest level in over five years, buoyed by rising demand which encouraged firms to expand their labor forces.

Firms in the big four euro nations—Germany, France, Italy and Spain—took on more staff, helping to push the euro zone employment index to 53.1, its highest since July 2001.

"It shows quite clearly that Europe is benefiting from strong global demand, and there are now signs that maybe this is going to spill over into domestic demand," said Dario Perkins, an economist at ABN Amro in London.

Demand climbed at a faster rate and backlogs of work continued to rise in the service sector, which accounts for two thirds of the economy of the 12-nation euro bloc. *Reuters*

INDIAN activists of Left parties hold anti-US President George W. Bush placards during a protest rally in Hyderabad. Bush urged India to further open its economy to the world to make trade flourish as he wrapped up a visit to the South Asian nation.

AFP

Is Japan ready for shift in monetary policy?

LONDON—ALREADY CONVINCED OF FURther interest rate rises in the United States and euro zone, investors will find out this week whether Japan is ready to bite the bullet and start phasing out its super-loose monetary policy.

The Bank of Japan concludes a two-day meeting on March 9, a day before monthly US payrolls data—a key health check for the world's biggest economy.

In the euro zone, German factory orders and industrial production data will be scrutinized to see whether upbeat sentiment surveys are spilling into hard economic numbers.

Speculation of an early end to Japan's ultra-easy monetary policy has grown amid signs the country is emerging from seven years of deflation.

"The big question is when Japan will start to dismantle its quantitative easing policy," said Philip Shaw, chief economist at Investec.

Benchmark Japanese bond yields hit 19-month highs on Friday after data showed consumer prices rose in January for a third straight month.

Japanese news agency Jiji reported on Friday that a majority of Bank of Japan policymakers were now ready to accept an end to the current policy of flooding the banking system with liquidity.

Euro zone bond yields have also risen sharply in recent days as robust data and hawkish comments from the European Central Bank have fueled speculation interest rates in the 12-nation bloc will rise faster than originally thought.

The ECB's decision to raise rates to 2.5 percent this week surprised no one, but the tone of its commentary left investors believing borrowing costs would head up faster than previously expected.

"The collective denial on the euro zone economic recovery is belatedly challenged as markets and forecasters finally wake up to reality," said Ken Wattret, economist at BNP Paribas.

German business sentiment as measured by the Ifo institute rose to its highest level in more than 14 years in February, but recent official numbers have been more subdued.

Against this background, German factory orders data on Tuesday and industrial production figures on Thursday could be crucial in shaping interest rate expectations.

"The strong rise in the Ifo business climate still has to be reflected in the real data, but after two weak months, German factory orders and industrial production are expected to rebound strongly," said Jan Poser, economist at Sarasin.

Analysts polled by Reuters forecast German industry orders rose 1.4 percent in January after a fall of 1.6 percent in December. Industrial production is forecast to have risen 1.1 percent for the same month after falling 0.5 percent in December.

The monthly US payrolls report next Friday is expected to show the US economy generated 200,000 new jobs in February, after a gain of 193,000 in January.

If initial claims and the jobs component of the latest US consumer confidence survey are anything to go by, the payrolls gain could be bigger than the market currently expects, said Sarasin's Poser.

The US central bank has raised short-term interest rates 14 times in a little over 18 months and money markets reckon the bank will continue raising rates to 5 percent by the middle of the year.

The Bank of England also meets next week but is widely expected to leave rates on hold at 4.5 percent.

Many analysts expect the next move in UK rates will be down, although recent figures pointing to a recovery in the housing market have muddled the picture.

Oil prices are also likely to be focus for markets this week as concerns simmer over Iran's nuclear programme and attacks on Nigeria's oil industry.

Opec is widely expected to agree to continue pumping oil at near full throttle at a mid-week gathering. *Reuters*

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT
263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. 433-2408, 433-5032, 433-6802
Fax No. (48) 433-6803

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of the Project	Supply and Delivery of One (1) Unit Fighter Water Tanker (Japan Surplus) or equivalent.
Location	Puerto Princesa City Water District
Brief Description	One (1) Unit Fighter Water Tanker (Japan Surplus) or equivalent powered by 6 cylinder diesel engine, 6 wheelers, manual transmission, 6 cubic meter water tank, original Japan stainless equipped with standard hose with roller, 900 x 200 with one spare, 8 stud bolts, brand new batteries and complete standard tools.
Approved Budget for the Contract	Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P600,000.00)
Delivery Period	Thirty (30) Calendar Days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 7, 2006 to March 14, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 15, 2006, 1:30 PM PPCWD Board Room
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	March 28, 2006 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room
4. Opening of Bids	March 28, 2006 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) to the Puerto Princesa City Water District Cashier.

The Puerto Princesa City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) Engr. VICENTE D. ABRE
PPCWD BAC Chairman
(PDI - Mar. 6 & 13, 2006)

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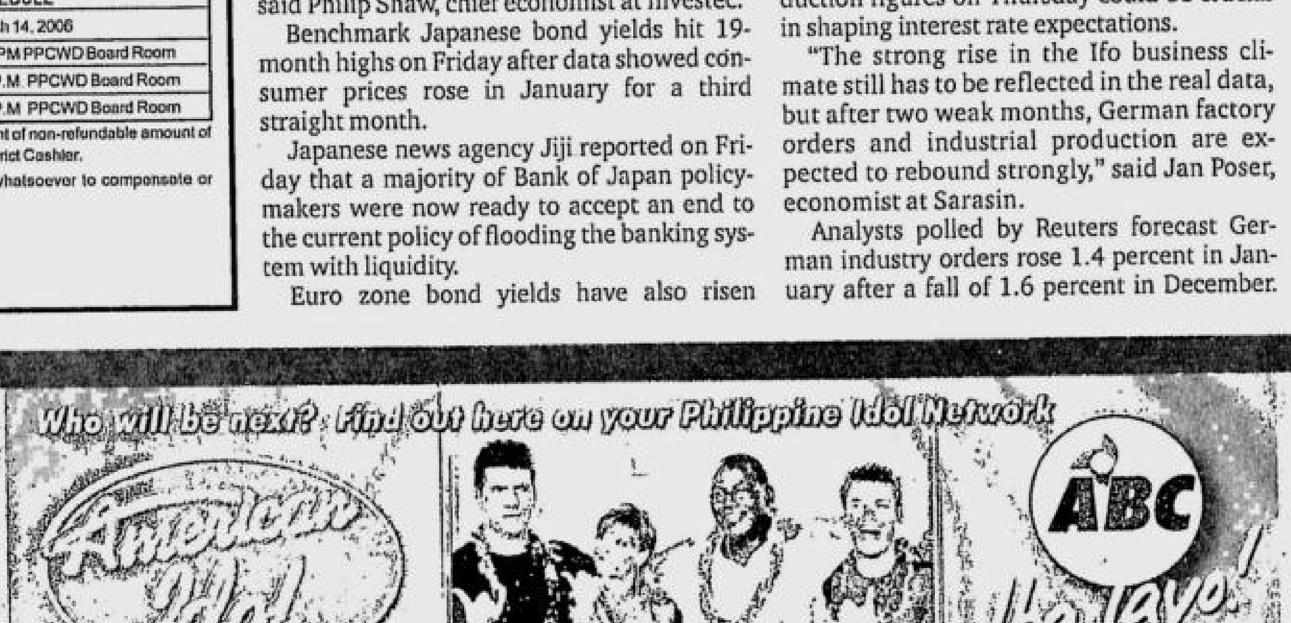

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Monday, March 6, 2006

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		Speed		TNA Impact		Sentro	How Clean Is Your House	ABC Action Movies				Big News	Fear Factor		Tolo TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins		TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
AXN		SWAT Police			Worst Case Scenario		E Buzz	Cold Squad (Season V)		Numb3rs (Season II)		Max Exposure (Season II)		The 4400 (Season 2)		Lost (Season II)		Lost (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinemax		Fever (2:50 PM)			The Gorgon			Young at Heart				A Twist Of The Knife			First Target			Groundhog Day	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-lakative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards 2003 Women's Tournament of Champs Uncasville CT USA		Pool World Pool Masters 2002		X-Games Files '02		Extreme Programming Sports World		In The Driver's Seat	Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '05 Men's Trick Shot Magic		Table Tennis '04 Starvitational C'ships	Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '04 England				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Joan Of Arcadia	
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion Encore	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Sunday Night With (Encore) Fr Benedict Groeschel		Threshold Of Hope		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Defending Life	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Fox Report Sunday		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace/Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Child Of Our Time		Angel In The Family			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Jane Doe Vanishing Act			McLeod's Daughters IV		Strong Medicine
HBO				Beethoven's 5th			Impulse (6:45 PM)				A Simple Wish			As Good As It Gets				New Jack City (11:15PM)	
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Home Shopping Network		Global Family Series		Japan Video Topics		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Bottomline		Afterburn		X-Men Evolution	Jack Yard	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Family Guy	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box			
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! Extra Jackie Collins Presents: Hitched In Hollywood		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	How Do I Look	
MTV Philippines	Rockola	MTV2, Korn MAV Twisted Transistor	Chart Attack		Viva La Bam	Pop Inc		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits			Massive	Get Spotted	TRL		The 70's House	Wild N' Out	Homecoming	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten			Mobile MYX Top Picks	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Hidden Worlds		Dangerous Encounters		Wildlife Diary	Totally Wild	Top 5 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Treasure Fleet: The Adventures Of Zheng He		Hornets, A Sting In The Tale	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Bow				Mga Tiong Papel				Elorde Banquet Of Champions				Buffet				Apoy Sa Iyong Kandungan
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zentrix	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	H3O Hahaha ..Otel		News On Q	[illegible]		MNT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping					Global Window		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Score Tactics	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Global Window	Cargo For Truth	
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports						Greatest Classics				Sagupaan		NBA Game Jazz @ Sonics					Sportsdesk	Philippine Open Semifinals	
Sports Plus					FIFA Preview Series 3	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Arena Football Los Angeles @ Orlando									
Star Movies			The Big Lebowski (3:35 PM)				The Sin Eater				The Girl Next Door (7:20 PM)			Cold Mountain					Hollywood Shootouts
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	Frasier (Series 9)		Monk (Series 4)		Friends (Series 10)	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monster						Get Backers	Spells	Wazzup Wazzup	The Swan Season 2		Charmed (8:20 PM)	Lost (9:10 PM)		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

STRUGGLING MARKET

Wall Street wobbles amid interest-rate outlook

NEW YORK—WALL STREET IS SEARCHING for direction in the face of data suggesting an acceleration of US economic growth, a situation likely to mean higher interest rates than anticipated, say analysts.

The market closed out a mixed week Friday, with the blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average losing 0.36 percent over the five days to 11,021.59.

The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 index dipped 0.17 percent for the week to 1,287.23 but the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 0.68 percent to 2,302.60.

The market has been struggling, alternating rallies with losing sessions, as investors positioned in the face of apparently strong economic data including surveys showing healthy factory activity and services.

Analysts say the data cut both ways—keeping growth on track but also encouraging the Federal Reserve to lift interest rates to a point where it could crimp profits and choke off economic activity.

Deutsche Bank economists said they see a "5 and 5" scenario for the economy—economic growth at a 5-percent pace that leads to a 5-percent federal funds rate, up from the current level of 4.5 percent.

"The data this week still suggest to us that GDP will grow 5.0 percent in the first quarter and that the Fed will reach 5.0 percent on fed funds in May," they wrote.

"Despite the good news on core inflation, the overall strength of the economy in the near term is likely to be impressive enough that the Fed will want to take out additional insurance against an overshooting of sustainable levels of resource utilization."

Lehman Brothers economist Ethan Harris sees an even more robust economic picture and that this is likely to be confirmed with Friday's report on February US job growth, which he pegs at 250,000 or greater.

Other analysts say the economic data may be giving false signals, with warm weather in January boosting activity, and worry that the Fed under new chairman Ben Bernanke may be too aggressive in attacking inflation.

"Our concern we have about the economy is that the Federal Reserve may overdo tightening," said Wachovia Securities strategist Rod Smyth.

Smyth said Bernanke "is likely to err on the side of tightening in order to establish his inflation-fighting credentials with financial markets."

The analyst added that because of the lag time of the impact of rate hikes of a year or more, "the chances have increased for a policy mistake by the Fed ... We believe consumers will succumb to a slowdown in the housing market and thus additional tightening in the next few months may ultimately lead to a sharper economic retrenchment." Merrill Lynch chief investment officer Bob Doll said that he sees a slowdown later this year to bring overall growth to around 3 percent. *AFP*

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- Linking Policies and Strategies
- Assessing Financial Performance
- Pursuing Growth and Sustainability

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- Translating Strategies to Investments
- Analyzing Investment Options
- Assessing Business Risk

Finance and Stability
- Matching Financing to Investments
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A GROUP of college students from vocational schools in Tokyo and Osaka, western Japan, give a shout during a joint pep ceremony to launch their job-hunting at Tokyo's Hibiya Park. About 3,000 students gathered for the ceremony as Japan's unemployment rate for the 2005 showed the third straight year of improvement for the Japanese labor market. AP

Market needs more oil, US says

WASHINGTON—US ENERGY SECRETARY Sam Bodman said on Friday he believes Opec has a sense that with current high oil prices, markets need more, not less, crude oil from the cartel.

In a briefing with reporters, Bodman said he did not know what Opec ministers will decide about production levels when they meet this week.

But after meeting last week with Opec President Edmund Daukoru, Bodman said "their sense was that with the prices that we're looking at, the market is going to need more rather than less oil."

Bodman said there are no signs the global economy is "suffering in any major way" due to oil costs.

Daukoru, also Nigeria's petroleum minister, did not offer assurances on how Nigeria will protect its oil facilities from future militant attacks, Bodman said.

"I didn't ask for any—he didn't give me any," Bodman told reporters during an hour-long briefing on various energy issues.

On another matter, Bodman said he planned to ask major oil companies why their retail stations are not installing more pumps that offer gasoline made from 85 percent ethanol.

He said if the companies won't make an effort to install the ethanol pumps, there would a "more aggressive response" from the government on the matter.

Bodman also said he was not worried about Venezuela's threats to cut shipments of crude oil and refined petroleum products to the US market.

Separately, Bodman said the Bush administration now sees problems with creating separate US gasoline and natural gas emergency stockpiles and that idea has become less of a priority with the administration.

Bodman also said the administration has no plans to raise taxes on gasoline or other forms of energy. *Reuters*

US farm groups urge caps on developing nations

WASHINGTON—DEVELOPING COUNTRIES with export sectors that compete with US farm goods should be subject to certain restrictions as part of any global trade agreement to reduce farm subsidies, US farm groups said.

In a letter dated Feb. 28 to US Trade Representative Rob Portman and Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, commodities groups warned they would not be able to support any deal that expected them to accept program cuts but did not include curbs for less developed countries where farm trade is booming.

"Our producers will find it difficult to support a final WTO agreement that requires substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support for US farmers while allowing our largest and fastest-growing competitors in the world to continue or further stimulate their competitive export sectors," the letter said.

Farm groups have been worried about Brazil in particular.

While still classed under world trade rules as a developing country, its agriculture sector is booming and exports of soybeans and some grain are a growing competitive threat to US producers.

Disciplines should be applied to commodities sectors in developing countries which have a share of 5 percent or more of world trade for commodities and semi-processed products, the letter said.

Negotiators from the United States, the European Union, Australia, Japan, Brazil and India have been meeting to prepare the way for a key ministerial gathering on March 10 in London.

That meeting could prove crucial to whether the full 149-state World Trade Organization meets its target of a draft deal by the end of April on freeing up farm trade.

Talks among WTO member countries have made only fitful progress in the 4-1/2 years since the so-called Doha round was launched to negotiate a deal that would throw open markets for farm, industrial and services products around the world, with the aim of boosting the world economy and lifting millions out of poverty.

Agriculture has been a particular stumbling block. *Reuters*

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February 2005

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC

USD70 Million
GSM PHASE 8
LOAN FACILITY

Mandated Lead Arranger/Facility

May 2005

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

USD1.15 Billion
BRIDGE LOAN
FACILITY

Joint Lead Arranger

July 2005

SM PRIME HOLDINGS

Php 5 Billion
FIXED RATE NOTES DUE 2010
FIXED RATE NOTES DUE 2012

Bookrunner and Joint Lead Arranger

October 2005

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

USD 650 Million
RE-FINANCING
FACILITY

Joint Lead Arranger

November 2005

USD 500 Million
SYNDICATED TERM LOAN
FACILITY

Lead Arranger

November 2005

BANCO DE ORO

Php 2.9 Billion
NEGOTIABLE CERTIFICATES
OF DEPOSIT DUE 2010

Arranger

December 2005

GLOBE TELECOM

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RE-FINANCING
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Economic hits, and misses, of the past 20 years

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THIS ARTICLE WAS meant to be part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution. Overtaken by events the past week, we still deem it relevant to feature.

We asked two economists who were former Economic Planning Secretaries to assess what, to their minds, were the economic policy hits and misses of the past 20 years.

We also provided a small summary of how the economy, as measured by the gross national product, performed on the average during each administration of the past two decades.

Cayetano Paderanga

Former National Economic and Planning secretary, FVR administration

Cory Aquino hits

- Recovery from a deep recession
- Resumption of industrial restructuring; reforms
- Reorganization of government
- Resumption of official development assistance availments
- Began the liberalization of the peso

Misses

- Unfinished liberalization of telecom and shipping
- No energy alternatives put in place after the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant was scrapped

Fidel Ramos hits

- Regaining international respect and credibility had profound economic benefits, distinct from economic recovery
- Trade investments and cooperation restarted

Solita Monsod

Former Neda secretary, Aquino administration

Cory Aquino hits

- Restoration of democracy
- Reduction of poverty

Misses

- Lost opportunities—not committed to debt reduction

Fidel Ramos hits

- No coup attempts during his time but" extremely gentle with coup participants".
- Significant poverty reduction

Misses

- Too much hype
- Extremely gentle with coup participants
- Monetary and fiscal policies of Neda were not followed

Joseph Estrada hits

- Monetary policy became rational
- "The Central Bank did not attempt to push things up by using the interest rate."

Misses

- Poverty increased
- Absolute employment decreased

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hits

- Economic figures are good, more jobs, employment, growth

Misses

- Not able to unify the nation
- "Although I did not vote for her, she is more maligned than she deserves."

Average GNP growth of different adminstrations

The average gross national product (GNP—total value of goods and services produced and performed including income from abroad, including remittances from Filipino workers) of the past (and present) administrations during the past 20 years are quite revealing.

Corazon Aquino (1986-1991) 4.428 percent

Fidel V. Ramos (1992-1997) 4.391 percent

Joseph Estrada (1998-2000) 3 percent

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (2001-2005) - 4.96 percent

DR. THOMAS ENDERS, CEO of EADS in Singapore.

Security is big business

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SINGAPORE—THE SEPT. 11 TERrorist attack on the United States has made security a top priority across the continents.

Because of the growing feeling of vulnerability, governments with means have stepped up their purchases of the latest in defense equipment, such as military planes, helicopters, missiles, guns, communications gadgets and ships for border patrols.

Asia is no exception, as it is also plagued by internal and cross-border conflict, thus, presents an immense market for companies in the multibillion dollar defense industry, such as European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co., Europe's premier aerospace and defense company.

EADS co-chief executive officer Thomas Enders said in a recent briefing here that he expected sales in Asia to account for 20 percent of total turnover by 2009 and 30 percent of EADS' total revenues by 2015, from just 15.5 percent in 2004, as EADS concentrates on markets outside its home region of Europe.

EADS was founded in 2000 by Aerospatiale Matra S.A. (France), Construcciones Aeronauticas S.A. (Spain) and Daimler-Chrysler Aerospace AG (Germany).

The alliance made EADS the leading defense and aerospace company in Europe, with brands such as Airbus (airplanes), Eurocopter (civil helicopters), Eurofighter (military helicopters), A400M (turboprop planes), Meteor (missile), Galileo (satellite) and Ariane (launcher).

With its place in Europe intact, EADS has decided to challenge rivals, particularly from the United States, for a big chunk of the growing Asian market.

One of the factors that will fuel that growth is demand for new security equipment by China, India, Korea and Russia, Enders said.

He added that EADS would position itself in the market by entering into joint ventures and cooperation within the region, as well as through acquisitions.

"We want to intensify our global reach into other markets," Enders said.

Christian Duhain, head of EADS' marketing arm, said entering new markets would entail an increased presence by EADS in the region, although it already has offices and subsidiaries in Singapore, Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam.

It will also mean showing the region what it has to offer.

EADS had a chance to do that when it participated in the recently concluded Asian Aerospace show held here late last month as the biggest foreign exhibitor—another way of showing Asia what the Europeans are made of.

EUROCOPTER is the world's leading helicopter manufacturing company, with many countries in Asia using its products for civil and paramilitary purposes.

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Maybank, One of Asia's Best Banks - Financial Times, 2004

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Philam Plans celebrates the victory of its mission

ON MARCH 6, 2006, INDUSTRY LEADER Philam Plans, Inc. celebrates another year of saving dreams, memories and children's future, by hosting a business conference and Awards Night for its sales heroes, champions and legends. This will be kicked-off by a business conference in the morning featuring celebrities Dra. Josette Talamera Biyo as guest speaker, and Vince and Patricia Hizon as Ambassadors of Philam. Dra. Biyo is a multi-awarded Filipino that has a minor planet named after her, an honor bestowed to her by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston for her exemplary achievements as an educator. Vince and Patricia Hizon recently signed up as Ambassadors of Philam, special planholders who endorse the value of education and the discipline to save up for the future.

The evening will host the awarding ceremonies in a cocktail-dinner program. The next day will see the awardees off to Palawan for their Bakasyon Grande, part of the rewards for the sales efforts of the agents.

Philam Plans, Inc. ends year 2005 as the most trusted pre-need company for the 4th straight year while sustaining its pension leadership for the 6 th straight year and its top education position for the 2nd consecutive year. It bears the highest and most liquid trust fund level at more than P19B as of December 2005 with 97% of it invested in government securities, cash and its equivalents. Its trust fund has grown by 40% in the past two years with its current level able to pay for the company's planholder obligations until the year 2013. Philam Plans, Inc. is an affiliate of the country's leading insurance provider, Philamlife and the world's leader in financial services, American International Group. If you wish to know more about Philam Plans and how it can better secure your future, please contact Philam Plans Call Center at 528-5200.

JJ CARWASH CAFE CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

JJ Carwash Cafe recently celebrated its first year anniversary, present are Vice Mayor Arnold Vicencio and Jacinto Gan Jr.

Getting ready for the hot season with exciting new cool desserts

THESE DAYS WAKING UP IN the morning, you'll realize that the cool breeze is slowly fading out and is replaced by that familiar feeling which hints that summer is just around the corner. How you crave for something icy and sweet to sate your cravings and to dampen the city heat. You start to yearn for things and food to refresh you day in and day out. Well, it's too early to hit the beaches yet but you can already cool it off in your favorite destination - Jollibee!

You don't have to wait for summer to finally settle in for you to enjoy the fruits of the season. Everyday could be a sweet and delicious dessert feast as Jollibee introduces the new Tutti Frutti Jolly Krunchy Twirl and Butter Ball Jolly Krunchy Twirl, which come at an affordable price of only P12, as the addition to its ever-growing Jolly Zerts lineup. Get into sweet oblivion with the creamy vanilla soft serve dipped in Tutti Frutti flavored coating, sprinkled with puffed rice. Or, delight into this cool dessert of delicious vanilla with a crunchy Butter Ball coating.

Go to your nearest Jollibee store and try the new Jolly Zerts that are enjoyably fun to eat together.

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Power plays

BUSINESSWORLD COLUMNIST AND HIGHLY respected corporate executive Antonio R. Samson dishes out sage advice on how to survive the corporate jungle in his latest book, POWER PLAYS: Notes from the Corporate Bench. With characteristic wit and humor, Samson takes on all the phases of corporate life, from getting hired and making oneself comfortable, to climbing the organizational ladder, and finally, being the master of all one surveys. Behind the laughter lies some of the most practical advice ever written on office politics and business management. "I am often suspected of being a corporate politician of the first order," Samson writes. "If I confess to using this accumulated knowledge of corporate politics. . .it is only for defensive purposes. Only the will to keep my signing authority and corner office drives my political agenda." Power Plays includes many of the Fence Sitter columns that are now regarded as classics, such as mastering the art of verbal aikido, managing contrarians, understanding the excuse culture, and conducting a psychological evaluation while ordering in a restaurant or doing karaoke. For more information, contact: finnegan.james.media@gmail.com "Finnegan-James Media. Everyone's an author."

TCL Sun Inc. rises to bid for TV market leadership

IN WHAT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS ACHIEVING a phenomenal growth in the Philippines during the last five years, TCL has entered the elite circle of the country's top and leading performers in the TV market for year 2005. It is the only non-Japanese brand to have joined the ranks, achieving over 90% growth of its own target and close to 40% growth vis-à-vis the previous year.

Most businesses experienced tough times and rough sailings last year, with the tv industry in particular registering negative growth compared to 2004. Yet TCL survived the year with flying colors by simply focusing on its own sales and marketing strategies, strengthening further its dealer network's' confidence and Filipino consumers' acceptance.

Obviously, efforts made in recent years have paid off for this China brand which is fast becoming to be the "new favorite" among Philippine households. TCL takes pride in its tv's unique functions and innovative features. It has vigorously launched an aggressive stance of "No to Mono" campaign in its advertising because all TCL television sets being sold in the market are stereo models, ranging from 14-inch to 34-inch models.

In September 2004, TCL top officials met visiting Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Beijing and briefed her on the major achievements that TCL has made in recent years. TCL Overseas SBU President Dr. Terry Yi informed the Philippine President that the country's strategic geographical location has given way for TCL Corporation to set the Philippines as the company's color tv manufacturing base for export to the United States - a significant development which could enhance TCL's presence as a major player while helping boost business and the economy, locally.

TCL has made moves to create a world-class corporation with international competitiveness, a far cry from a small enterprise that it was twenty two years ago. It made bold strides towards overseas a few years back when China's economy was emerging, attracting global focus and attention. It is interesting to note that TCL has become China's most successful producer and provider of electronic products and is considered the present global leader of the tv industry.

At the rate TCL is catching up fast, it will not be long before "My New favorite" becomes a by-word among Filipino households. The brand's very encouraging sales performance on the first month of 2006 is an indication of how exciting are the days ahead for TCL in the Philippines.

It is not a remote possibility then that TCL's goal of clinching market leadership may turn into a solid reality sooner the brand can expect. So long as it plays its cards right, that vision, that feat - will be as certain as the sun rises in the East every morning.

Credit Card Association of the Philippines

25 Years

Financial Empowerment and Credit Responsibility

A tool for convenience is also a big responsibility

By Raquel P. Gomez

THE CREDIT CARD ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines is currently looking at a maturing credit card industry, with cardholders' attitude toward credit card use changing.

According to Chut Santiago, Chairman of CCAP, more credit cardholders are now realizing the value of the credit card as a tool for convenience rather than as an easy source of borrowing.

Santiago said, in the past, people would grab every card offered to them and they would often fall into the cycle of never-ending debt trap. But now cardholders, particularly the long time users, are becoming wiser with credit card use.

"More people are now realizing the value and the true purpose of the credit card. Among long time users of cards, the attitude has changed. You see people rationalizing their card ownership; while in the past people would just grab every opportunity to have as many cards as they have. People now are using it for its intrinsic value of offering convenience, a payment tool that makes life easier compared to just using the traditional modes of cash and checks."

There are now 4.6 million credit cards in circulation in the country, which is a reflection of a respected 20 percent growth for the credit card market. Santiago said the industry has more room to grow for cardholders base.

Credit card transactions online is also gaining ground with more banks setting up their own websites and merchants accepting credit cards online. Santiago said some banks in fact now have an online credit card.

The CCAP was established in 1980 with the objective of maintaining closer cooperation among credit card companies and to foster fellowship in the attainment of mutual and common interests. It now has 15 member credit card issuers.

Among the major contributions of CCAP towards promoting credit responsibility and security was the sponsorship of a bill that regulates the credit card industry. In 1998, Republic Act No. 8484, known as The Access Device Regularization Act for fraud protection and control, was passed.

Santiago said the CCAP is currently working on further strengthening RA 8484 in order to more effectively apprehend and

FINANCIAL/ B2-4

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From page B2-3

MANUEL G. Santiago, Jr. CCAP Chairman

penalize those who commit credit card fraud.

Santiago advises cardholders to keep their cards always secure.

"The association is in a concerted effort to educate and inform credit cardholders about the proper use of credit cards and how to protect their cards from fraud. Apart from this public circulation of information, each member bank is undertaking its own efforts to improve security in credit card use."

The CCAP has been working closely with the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for healthy regulation of the credit card industry.

As required, CCAP members regularly report bad accounts to a central database maintained and managed by the BSP. Member banks can access this database to ensure the industry remains robust and will extend credit only to people who can responsibly handle credit. The central information database has helped the industry police its own ranks, reducing credit losses due to bad cards.

For its 25th year anniversary, the CCAP will put importance on its campaign toward credit responsibility and financial empowerment.

Santiago said it is high time that the industry reminds people about proper management of their credit card accounts.

"For people to be able to get the full value and full convenience of a credit card, they need to be equally responsible for it. Only by taking responsibility over one's credit will one enjoy the benefits of true financial empowerment. This is why the CCAP is undertaking several educational programs for cardholders and merchants alike as empowerment begins with knowing and understanding. We will provide people with information so that they become more knowledgeable, feel more empowered and take greater responsibility in managing their finances."

Santiago said people often fall into the trap of overspending and the habit is one of the risks of having a credit card. He advises credit cardholders to treat their cards as cash.

"Spend when you know that there's something to spend on and you have the power to spend. With credit cards, in fact, it is easier to keep track of spending because of the monthly statements cardholders receive each month, unlike when one uses cash."

"We'd often say you pay as much as you can with your cards, while the revolving facility is available. If you have extra cash you might as well pay off the entire obligation."

Santiago said a credit card is a convenient and useful tool to be able to get through emergencies and still have enough time to recover from whatever spending you've made.

CCAP EXCOM
Shown are (from left) Jose A. Nuñez Jr. (SB Cards), advisory council; Claire Ann T. Yap (HSBC), treasurer; Alex G. Ilagan (Eastwest Bank), second vice-president; Rolando C. Tanchanco (Banco de Oro), president; Manuel G. Santiago, Jr. (Union Bank), chairman of the board; Jenny Z. Lacerna (Citibank), secretary and Elizabeth L. Legarda (Bankard), advisory council.

OTHER CCAP BOARD MEMBERS
Shown are (from left) Pacita Henson (PNB), Ian Fish (American Express), Corinne Go-Astillero (Standard Chartered) and Basil Carpio (OneCard).

"For people to be able to get the full value and full convenience of a credit card, they need to be equally responsible for it, otherwise they won't enjoy financial empowerment. We feel now is the time to provide people with enough information so that they become responsible with their debts."

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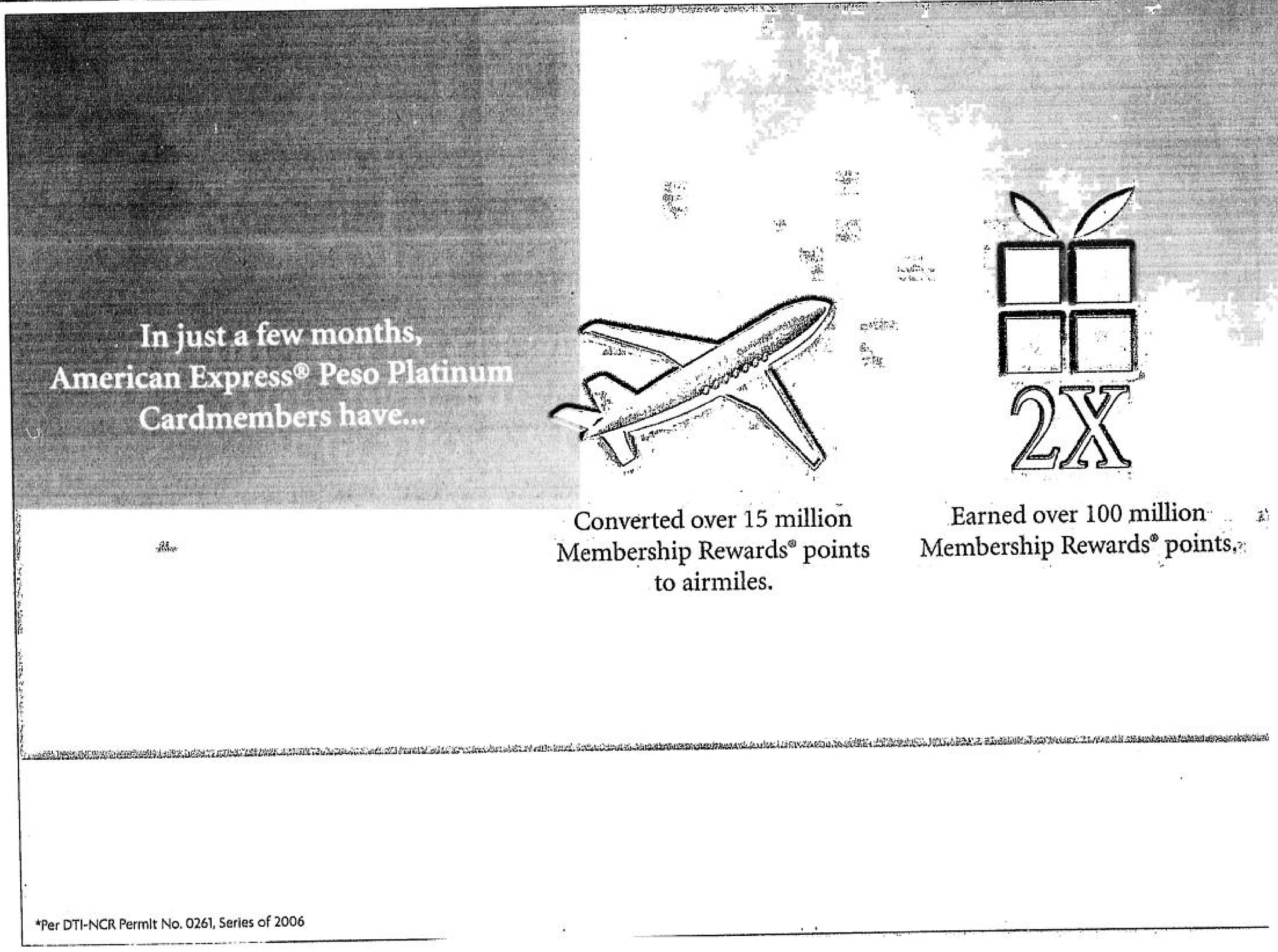

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Protect your card

Helpful tips from the Credit Card Association of the Philippines

DID YOU KNOW THAT WHEN OTHER PEOPLE get hold of your card, they are more likely to use it within 48 hours? So call your credit card company immediately and report the loss.

When somebody else uses your card before you report it as lost or stolen, you may be responsible for the unauthorized purchases. Follow up your call with a letter providing your account number, the date when you thought your card was missing and the time you reported your missing card.

Recent cases also indicate that majority of the victims of financial fraud disclosed personal information and/or their Personal Identification Numbers to fraudsters–so be warned.

It will be a good idea to ask your credit card company about rules or responsibilities governing the use of your credit card. Different credit card companies have different rules with regard to unauthorized charges.

Always keep your credit card safe and secure. Be careful about how and when you use your credit cards. Never lend them to anyone. Don't give your numbers to anybody and never leave your cards or receipts lying around. Heeding a few simple rules can save you from being a victim of credit card fraud or theft.

- Upon receipt of your credit card, immediately sign the signature panel on the reverse side of the card.
- Keep a record of your card number, expiration date and contact numbers of your issuing bank for emergency cases such as the loss or theft of your card.
- Report any unrecognized transaction in your billing statement. Keep a record of your transaction receipts and match them with your monthly credit card billing statements.
- Stay alert while shopping. Regularly check the presence of your credit card in your wallet. Should you lose your card, call your bank immediately.
- Make sure charge slips reflect the total amount of your purchases before you sign them. Make line markings on the blank space above the total amount on charge slips to prevent changes. Never sign a blank slip.
- Many website stores now accept credit card as payment. Transact only with trustworthy and reliable websites. Beware of spoofed e-mails or what is called "Phishing," and fraudulent websites designed to fool recipients into divulging personal financial data.
- Call your issuing bank for any change in address and contact telephone numbers. This will enable them to reach you promptly should any incidents involving your credit card happen.
- Call the credit card's Customer Service Hotlines for advice and assistance.

24 Hour Customer Service Hotlines:

American Express	814 4777
AIG	636 8600
Banco de Oro	631 8000
Bankard	888 1888
BPI	89 100
Citibank	995 9999
HSBC	878 7878
EastWest Bank	88 817
Equitable CardNetwork	867 7977
Metrobank Card	8700 700
OneCard	8100 111
PNB	867 7977
Security Bank Cards	887 9388 / 887 9177
Standard Chartered Bank	830 1111 (7am to 12mn)
Union Bank	84 188

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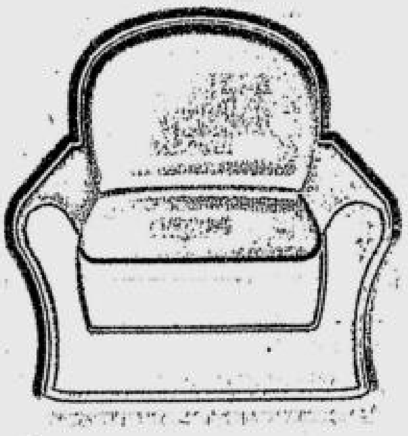

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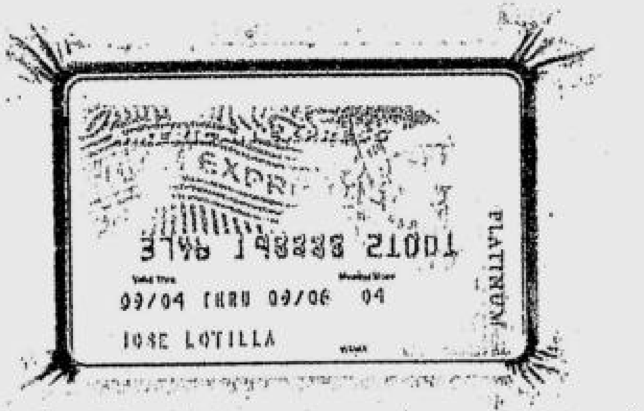

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AMERICAN EXPRESS

10 things you need to know when using a credit card

1

Learn about the various credit card products and how they work.

There are various credit card products in the market. Ask the bank's representative or agent or customer service about the features of their credit card products so you may derive the most benefit. Each credit card will have their own offers on installment, credit limits, rates and fees, perks and privileges, promotions, rewards, etc. It is best to compare the various credit cards in the market. Make sure that the credit card product will meet your needs and suit your lifestyle.

2

Carefully read and understand the terms and conditions of your credit card agreement.

Each credit card company will have their own terms and conditions. These cover credit limit, finance charges, foreign exchange rates, penalties and late charges, membership fees, installment financing payment due dates, cut off dates, how and where to pay, among others. Go over them carefully. Should you have questions, you may ask a bank representative or call the customer hotline. The whole gamut of legal information about the credit card product is written in the terms and conditions which may be found in the application form, the bank's card carriers and/or bank's statements. Once you sign or use your credit card, you are legally bound by these.

3

Save a portion of your take-home pay for emergencies.

Remember the story about the ant that saved for the rainy day? No need to elaborate on this one. Always practice setting aside a percentage of your take-home pay to savings. Worry and headaches will be kept at bay if you know you have a little security in terms of savings in the bank.

4

Be disciplined in your spending and set a budget for your monthly needs, including credit card charges.

Every household must ensure that their basic needs are met. These include utilities, food and groceries, medicines, school-related expenses, mortgage or rent, car loan amortization, etc. Before splurging on the other luxuries, make sure that budget for these basic needs plus some savings in the bank are set aside. So when payday comes, you can pay for these needs and your credit charges without a hitch.

5

Use your credit card as if you were paying with your disposable cash.

Establishments know the value of shop windows and shelf arrangements. You go inside the stores and stroll in the malls and everything seems beautiful. You come across a nice little pink dress on sale that seems to say "buy me now or tomorrow I won't be here" constantly. Well, don't give in to the hypnotic allure of shops, particularly during those weekend or midnight sales promotions or you'd end up coming home with a truckload of items you don't have any use for and will eventually clutter your storage. Be a sensible shopper. Think before you buy. Don't max out the limit of your card on things you don't really need.

6

Manage the monthly credit payments and take on only what you can afford.

So you have several credit cards. You have all the credit card brands of different types. Cool! And you're using them all. One credit card for this item and another card for that item. That's uncool. It will cause too much headache when all these credit cards send you notices demanding payment almost at the same time. When using your cards, be always guided by your fixed spending budget for the month, and you won't go wrong.

7

To avoid penalties and keep finance charges low, always pay your credit card bills on time.

The best advice for you not to fall into the debt trap or cycle is to always pay your bills promptly. Pay as much of the outstanding amount as you can afford so the finance charges can be kept at bay. With this practice, you maintain a healthy credit background. This means you are in good credit standing and banks will love you. When the need arises for a loan, banks will consider this and will be more open to granting approval of your application.

8

If you are the type who pays for day-to-day expenses using your credit card, keep track of your monthly credit card bills so your debt will not get out of control.

Even if you charge every expense you have on a day-to-day basis to your credit card, keep in mind your budget for these expenses so they won't balloon. Monitor your purchases and always compute the total at the end of the day. Post them on your ref or note them down in your planner so you will always be reminded.

9

Keep your credit card information (including phone number of issuer) secure and separate from your cards, in case your cards get lost or stolen.

Don't be like the person who lost his wallet together with his cards. He writes the PIN (personal identification number) of all his cards written on a piece of paper and keeps them together with his cards because he has a hard time remembering all the codes. Well, you can guess the rest of the story and how fraudulent withdrawals were made on his cards. A little common sense is all that's needed in keeping our cards secure. It's always best to keep credit card information such as your card number, expiry date and PIN tucked in a safe place. Never share them with anyone, not even to people close to you.

10

File your credit card sales slips and use them to reconcile the charges in your monthly statement.

When your credit card statement arrives, compare the list of charges reflected with the sales slips you have on file. This ensures that the charges on your statement are valid, made by you and correct in amount. If you find discrepancies, call your credit card company right away.

Before applying for a credit card, it is always advisable to first ask the bank or credit card issuer about its credit card products. Make sure that the credit card will meet your needs and suit your lifestyle.

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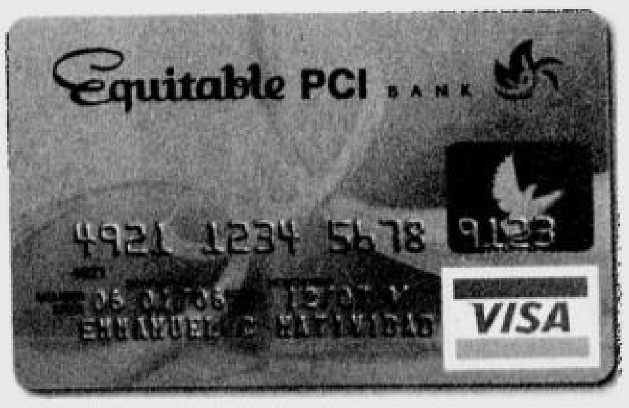

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How much is too much for you?

PAUL, 25, WORKS IN A CALL CENTER. HE leads a lifestyle typical of the lifestyles of other young single urban professionals. He loves to shop for trendy clothes, shoes and cool gadgets. He loves to hang out with friends for a night out of karaoke or dinner. For a many of his expenditures, he uses the reliable credit card.

As a young urban consumer, Paul considers himself empowered financially. He knows how to manage his credit and funds wisely.

This wasn't Paul's situation several years ago. Paul got deep into a lifestyle of wanton spending using all the credit cards available to him. The spending brought him to a point when he maxed out the credit limit provided by his cards.

When the bills arrived, the amount reflected was a huge pile of debts incurred over months of spending. Paul was in a classic situation of debt trap or debt cycle.

Paul couldn't enjoy life with a pile of debts hanging like the sword of Damocles on his head. Paul took charge of the situation. He went to a financial consultant. Empowered with financial advice on credit management, Paul was able to turn things around for himself.

Finally financially empowered, Paul now keeps a manageable number of credit cards and he spends wisely too. The financial consultant teaches him the secret of good credit management: getting one's debt ratio and managing money wisely.

When do we know we have too much credit already? And what is debt ratio?

People who do not make their credit card or loan payments on time face serious implications. Defaulting on a loan or credit card is a serious business and it can affect your ability to take out new loans in the future. It may even lead to legal action.

To prevent such problems, it is important to use credit wisely. That's why the first step in using credit wisely is knowing how much you can afford to borrow. You need to take a long, hard look at your current and future financial situation before you take on any new debt. Then, set a realistic budget for debt repayment by computing your debt ratio.

Debt ratio is a useful tool to determine the amount you owe compared to the amount you earn. Knowing your debt ratio gives a clear picture of your financial well-being. If your debt ratio is lower, then you have more leeway for other expenditures.

Debt ratio is defined as the percent of your monthly take-home pay that goes to paying debts and monthly obligations. It is determined by taking the amount needed to repay debts each month, including rent or mortgage, and divide this by your take-home pay (one's net pay after deduction of tax).

Example:

Monthly debt repayment - P4,000

Monthly take-home pay - P10,000 =

Debt ratio 40%

Loan and money experts often suggest that no more than 15 to 20 percent of your monthly household take-home pay (excluding rent or mortgage) should be used to pay debts and make loan and credit card payments. And no more than 40 percent of your monthly take-home pay should go to paying all debts, including mortgage payments.

This formula is just a gauge or guide to determine how much is too much for you. One helpful tip to credit and spending management is to always keep in mind what our elders taught us: spend within your means.

MERCHANT RELATIONSHIP AND MARKETING &PR COMMITTEE

Shown are (from left) Andrew Cajucom (Standard Chartered), chairman, Merchant Relationship; Grace Cagro (Bankard), vice-chair, Merchant Relationship; Ginbee Go (BPI) chairman, Marketing and PR and Bob Tolentino (Union Bank), vice chair, Marketing and PR.

SECURITY & RISK AND CREDIT COMMITTEE

Shown are (from left) Harry Gue (Equitable CardNetwork), vice-chair, Security and Risk; Gene Abao (HSBC), chairman, Security and Risk; Elfren Sarte (Union Bank), chairman, Credit and Marc Hernando (Equitable Card Network), vice-chair, Credit.

Consumer Protection Among CCAP's Top Priorities

THE CREDIT CARD ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (CCAP) is celebrating its 25th year anniversary. Its membership is now composed of 15 major credit card issuers - American Express, AIG, Banco de Oro, Bankard, BPI, Citibank, EastWest, Equitable CardNetwork, HSBC, Metrobank, OneCard, PNB, SB Cards, Standard Chartered and Union Bank. While they may be competing for space in each person's wallet, they are united in their vision of promoting credit responsibility and financial empowerment.

Since its establishment in 1981, CCAP has moved towards accomplishing the following goals:

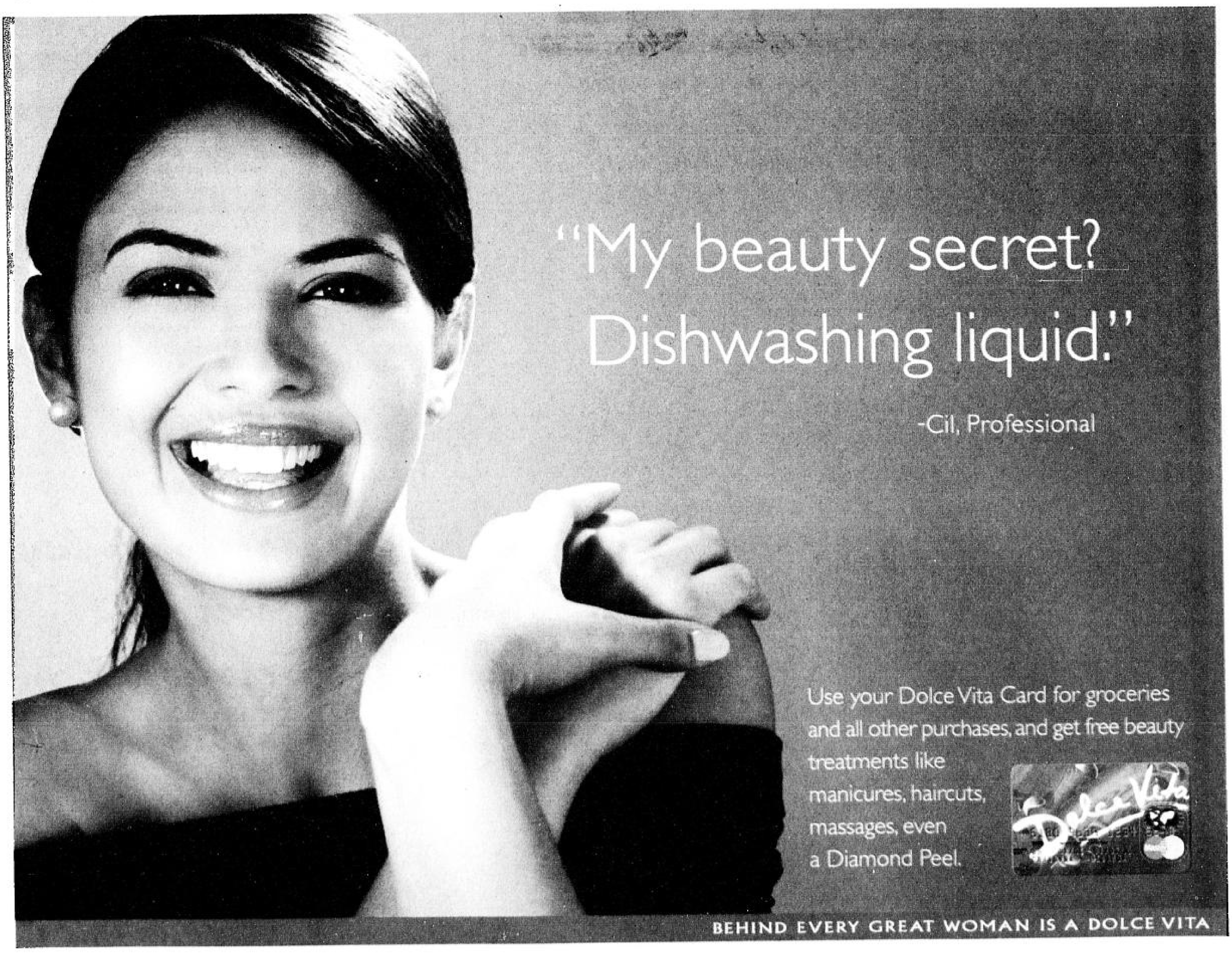
1. Initiate measures for the protection of cardholders and merchants.
2. Promote responsible use and acceptance of credit cards in the local, global and e-commerce settings.
3. Make available credit cards to those who need and qualify for credit.
4. Foster stronger and more active fellowship among members in pursing common interests.
5. Continue to educate cardholders to get the best value out of their credit cards while instilling credit discipline.

With consumer protection among its top priorities, CCAP, through its Security and Risk Committee, continues to undertake a coherent and collective approach in combating credit card fraud. Among the efforts CCAP embarked on was the sponsorship of Republic Act No. 8484 known as The Access Device Regularization Act for fraud protection and control, which was successfully passed by Congress in 1998. In 2005 alone, the following initiatives were implemented:

- Law Enforcement training sessions for about 200 police officers in Manila and Cebu. These sessions covered credit card fraud awareness as well as implementation of RA8484. Some prosecutors attended the training to give their view on the law.
- Close coordination with various Law Enforcement agencies for a more effective implementation of RA8484.
- Orientation sessions to 2 merchant associations covering 200 merchants on proper card acceptance and fraud control.
- Merchant education drives covering retail and travel merchants to reduce acquired fraud.
- Card security awareness through newspaper articles as well as statement inserts.
- Fraud Conference among CCAP members, Card Associations Visa and MasterCard, and Law Enforcement agencies to discuss fraud prevention initiatives.

As a result of the above initiatives, acquired fraud (i.e., fraudulent use of cards in the Philippines including foreign-issued cards) had been significantly reduced with the fraud-to-sales ratio going down from 0.35% in 2004 to 0.30% in 2005. Just for better perspective, 95% of cards fraudulently used in the Philippines are foreign-issued cards.

CCAP believes that the cornerstone in the achievement of improved consumer protection is education. Education comes in the form of extensive merchant education, continuous law enforcement education, as well as timely information sharing and dissemination of the latest security trends among member banks.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EMPOWERING THE CONSUMER

More Pinoys can now realize their dreams faster with credit cards

By Raquel P. Gomez

MOST LIKELY, THE AVERAGE WHITE-COLLAR Filipino worker today will have in his possession a decent collection of entertainment gadgets or appliances such as a flat TV, a DVD player, and a stereo component system sitting in his comfortable living room. His kitchen will be a showcase of the latest devices, such as a two-door ref, a microwave oven and a gas range, while his room will have a king-size bed and a nice comfy lounge chair.

To this average Filipino, the comforts of living he now enjoys is made possible with the use of a credit card which allow him to pay for all these items.

To this average Filipino, the dream of having a good life is no longer a dream, but has actually become a reality. Thanks to the credit card, which empowers the average Filipino financially, life has been upgraded for a more secure future.

A lot has happened to the overall landscape of purchasing and retail in the country ever since the credit card arrived with its consequent and phenomenal en masse distribution to the general populace.

The credit card was then touted as one of the harbingers of a cashless society when it was introduced, but it did more than that. The credit card, in its course of takeover of the purchases of the people, has in fact established and pioneered new forms of acquisitions and purchasing styles that generally benefited the consumer at large and the merchants selling their wares.

Three decades ago, for the average Filipino family to acquire a new television set, the head of the family had to wait for a large income to come his way--such as bonuses--to be able to buy a new TV. Or he would resort to paying the TV via installment plans provided by the appliance store. But with all the paperwork required, the process was too slow and inconvenient.

That scenario is now a thing of the past. Credit card companies have devised ways and means to purchase items hassle-free and friendly to the pocket. They pioneered easy installment plans with partner merchants. A consumer can now buy through installment not just one appliance but several items in just one swipe of the credit card, with exciting rewards to boot.

With the emergence of this new trend in credit spending, the credit cards have influenced the purchasing behavior of the consumer. Because of the buying convenience brought about by the credit card, it is now a common practice among the consumers to upgrade their gadgets at home with newer, trendier and exciting ones after just a year or two of purchase.

Credit cards pushed the barriers of purchasing power a little bit further. Travel, vacation and leisure can now be had with a credit card. It's now so convenient to go to Boracay and enjoy the pristine white beach and hotel accommodation accompanied by your favorite card. A laptop on sale in Tokyo can be purchased in a snap just before you board your plane.

Body, mind and soul rejuvenation and pampering can be availed with a quick charge of the credit card. Armed only with a credit card, you can go to spas, salons, workout centers, and badminton clubs.

A credit card can really bring in a lifestyle for you to live by and enjoy.

How can we imagine a life without a credit card today?

Only by taking responsibility over one's credit will one enjoy the benefits of true financial empowerment

Credit Card Association of the Philippines

HER REWARDS POINTS MADE HER A MILLIONAIRE.

Ms. Myrna Bathan Divinagracia
shown here with HSBC Deputy CEO Martin Cook

HSBC
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20 winners of free gas for a year.

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Precilla Mangulabnan
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BUSINESSMEN heaved a sigh of relief when President Arroyo lifted Proclamation 1017

Postscript to 1017

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO issued Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which put the Philippines under a state of emergency, businessmen in Metro Manila were mum on its possible impact on the economy.

Last Friday, Arroyo lifted the order.

But prior to the lifting, INQUIRER *correspondents talked to local businessmen and officials about the effect of the controversial proclamation on their operations.*

Hardly any effect in Luzon

By PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Central Luzon Desk

Local officials were initially worried about Proclamation 1017, but as it turns out, it hardly had any effect on business operations in northern Luzon.

There were other issues to worry about.

Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim, the head of the Magic Group of Companies, said business has been deteriorating since February because of the implementation of the revised value-added tax (VAT).

He said the situation could worsen because of the lingering effects of the declaration of the state of national emergency.

He explained that foreign investors and tourists were expected to shun the Philippines because the declaration meant that the country was under an "abnormal condition."

"Who would invest in a country where the situation is not normal?" he asked.

"Business has been turning from bad to worse. The consumers are very cautious and have not been spending much, perhaps because they think the worse is yet to come. I myself don't spend as much as I do," Lim said.

Wilson Chua, head of Bitstop Inc., said the company prepared for the eventuality that government will take over utilities like telecommunications firms.

He said that if the government takes over telecommunications firms and bars Internet service providers like Bitstop from using them, then "we can use dial up services of the United States."

Rosendo So, a businessman based in Urdaneta City, said it could be "good" if government takes over some businesses so officials would know how businesses are faring.

"We are doing brisk business here," said Gerard Chan, owner of the Iceland Baker and Restaurant in Agoo.

Victor Dy, owner of the National Bazaar in San Fernando City, said "business cannot thrive if there is disorder and political uncertainty."

"We are suffering because of high prices and there are only few buyers," said Evelyn Lastimosa, a small eatery owner in Aringay, La Union.

In Isabela, Ysmael Atienza, owner of the Centro Mall in Cauayan City, described the proclamation as an "overkill".

In Baguio City, Rodie Abejero, operations manager of the call center firm Nam-ay Ti Umili Inc., said news about emergency rule convinced a number of his clients in the United States to withdraw last week, because they thought it would lead to another martial law.

An official of the Baguio City Economic Zone, on the other hand, said operations at the zone have not been disrupted because most firms there have been assured that Baguio-based workers have learned to insulate themselves from political events in Metro Manila.

The Baguio zone hosts top exporter Texas

POSTSCRIPT/B3-2

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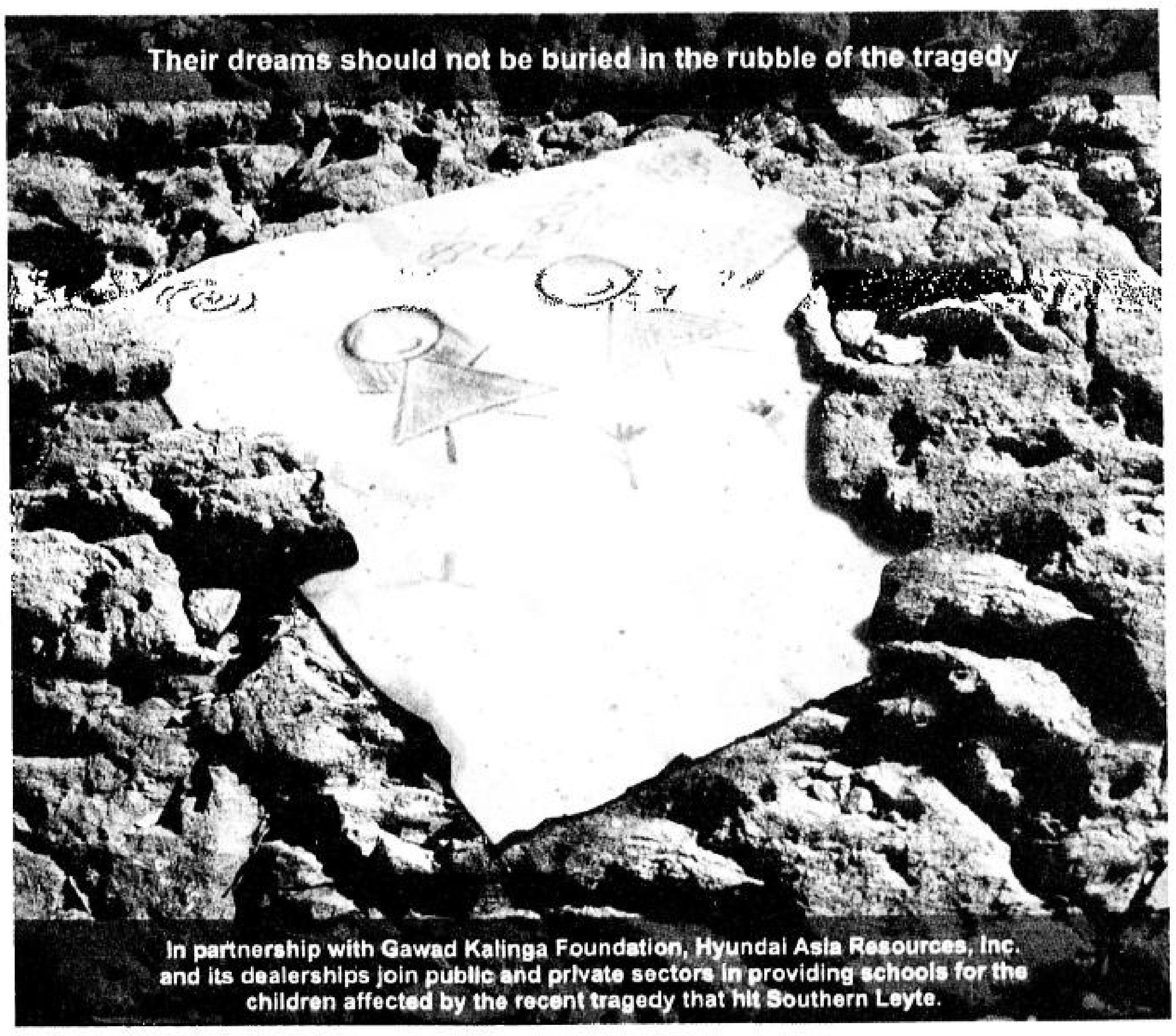

Their dreams should not be buried in the rubble of the tragedy

In partnership with Gawad Kalinga Foundation, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. and its dealerships join public and private sectors in providing schools for the children affected by the recent tragedy that hit Southern Leyte.

HYUNDAI EXTENDS HELPING HAND

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc., sole distributor of Hyundai cars in the Philippines, and its dealerships, through the H.A.R.I. Foundation, pledged their support for the rehabilitation and reconstruction initiatives of the Gawad Kalinga for the landslide victions of Southern Leyte.

Through the Gawad Kalinga's recently launched project, Kalinga Leyte, the H.A.R.I. Foundation, in partnership with the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), together with other corporate sponsors, will help rehabilitate the southern part of Leyte, particularly by constructing school buildings and classrooms. Already, plans are underway to start construction of the first school building this April.

It will be recalled that one of the tragic consequences of the Leyte landslide was the engulfment of an entire schoolhouse where about 300 pupils, parents and teachers were caught in the aftermath.

According to Mr. Richard Lee, H.A.R.I. Foundation Chairman, "We truly admire the gallant efforts of the Gawad Kalinga in bringing us all together to be active participants in nation building. We fully support their goals to transform the despair caused by the tragedy into hope."

"It will take a lot of resources to restore Guinsaugon: But we believe that, through our concerted efforts with the GK and all our corporate partners, we can help make the village whole again." added Ms. Maria Fe Perez- Agudo, H.A.R.I. Foundation President.

In related developments, Hyundai Motor Company donated the amount of P5Million to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) at official ceremonies held recently at the Malacañang Palace to support relief and rehabilitation efforts for the landslide victims of Southern Leyte.

Top officials of Hyundai Motor Company led by Mr. Il-Sung Seo, HMC General Manager and Chief of Asia Regional Headquarters, recently met with Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to personally hand over the donation and relay their sympathies to the Filipino people.

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Acer Valued Partners: Acecom Systems (045)987-7524 Advance Microsystems 635-4181 Brain Computer 724-7629 CBX Corporation (032)231-4369 Compuaid 411-5646 Computrends 811-1548 Datawave 926-9817 Enigma Technologies (045)888-1994 Fastlink 724-6788 Fonnline 531-5166 Literate Computer (049)808-1670 Infonet Computer 725-2889 Infonet Solution (032)254-9851 Infopro 721-5250 Micronics (075)522-1680 Microimage Int'l Corp 840-4010/51 MicroPacific Technologies & Systems Corp. 840-4563 Microphase 812-8814 Microstation 637-1473 Net Trekker 850-5862 Northgate 844-6477 NT Computer 634-4367 Octagon Computer Superstore 635-9080 Pacific Office Machine 722-6978 Protcom (078) 6345359 Sansui Computer Systems 912-3456 Speed Computer (075)564-5899 TCA 6342437/8106766 Tetra Technologies 897-1394 Value Systems Phils 918-1818

Postscript to 1017

From page B3-1

Instruments Philippines Inc. and the Philippine branch of Moog Controls Corp., an airline parts manufacturing firm.

Carlos Honorio Estepa, a local real estate broker and board director of the Philippine Tourism Authority, said Baguio's distance from the capital had kept most businesses in the city brisk.

But Proclamation 1017 dented the operations of the Cordillera's vegetable industry.

Jose Andiso Sr., president of the Benguet Farmers Federation Inc., said VAT and emergency rule have lowered farmers' revenues because vegetable distributors have been using the chaos in Metro Manila's streets to press for lower prices.

"We've been gradually losing 1 percent of our daily profits because dealers try to negotiate prices down once there is news about chaos in Metro Manila," he said.

In Ilocos Norte, Manuel Ablan, president of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce-Ilocos Norte, said it was business as usual in the province.

In Central Luzon

The almost 400 investors in the Clark Special Economic Zone, meanwhile, are more concerned about incentives.

"We'd rather focus on pending legislation to reinstate the incentives to us in Clark," said Frankie Villanueva, president of the Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila).

Most investors in Clark are American, European, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese and other Asian firms.

Jullie Armada, sales operation manager of Barasoain Sweets in Guiguinto, Bulacan, said it has been business as usual for her shop.

"In the past, we worry only about the troubles that the New People's Army brings. Now, we worry also about those creating trouble in Metro Manila. We are affected because we are uncertain of what will happen next," said Vicky Gaetos, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Nueva Ecija.

Blesilda Bartolome, who runs an agricultural supply store in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija, said her customers have been coming in as usual to buy the needs for their animals, fish, rice plants and other crops. *Reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Cristina Arzadon, Peter La. Julian, Errol Abrew, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Business unfazed in Bicol

By Edgar Alejo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The issuance of Presidential Proclamation 1017 had no effect on business and tourism in the Bicol region.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) regional director Jocelyn Blanco said that based on interviews with local businessmen in the region, business operations remained normal.

There were no price increases, for instance.

In Albay alone, based on the price monitoring activity conducted by the DTI-Albay, the prices of prime commodities in the province did not increase, Jo Aguilar, price monitoring officer, said in a phone interview.

Tourism Bicol regional director Nini Ravanilla added that as far as tourism was concerned, everything was normal.

The regional office based its response on its survey of hotels, restaurants and other tourism-oriented establishments in the region.

In an interview, Ravanilla said she had received no cancellation of locally-hosted big conventions, like the coming National Statistics Conference on March 17.

In fact, she said, Air Philippines will resume its Manila-Legazpi afternoon flight on March 7, using an 118-seater plane.

Air Philippines will also resume its Cebu-Legazpi-Cebu flight every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

Ravanilla said the inaugural flights from Manila and Cebu will bring along leading travel agents and tour operators from all over the country.

The Philippine Airlines office in this city said its daily flight from Manila to Legazpi and vice-versa has been fully booked since Monday with more than 100 passengers a flight.

Some firms hurting in the Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The declaration of a state of national emergency hurt some businesses here.

Valerie Maravilla, president of the Iloilo Realtors Association and the Ilonggo Producers Association, said that with the lifting of the proclamation, investors would be assured that the government was really in control of the situation.

Business leaders in Iloilo and Boracay had earlier warned of harder times ahead had the country remained under a state of national emergency because it presented a climate of uncertainty.

Nenette Aguirre-Graf, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), meanwhile, said the effect of the PP 1017 on Boracay Island's tourism industry has been minimal.

"We have not received any complaints from any of our members of wholesale cancellations of reservations or bookings. We have received some queries regarding the situation but we answered them that it's business as usual on the island," Graf said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

No serious damage in Davao

By Germelina A. Lacorte
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Presidential Proclamation 1017 has not wrought any serious damage to business in Mindanao, industry leaders said.

"It was hardly felt at all among Davao businessmen," Bienvenido Cariaga, president of the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCCII), said.

Unlike in Makati, where violent demonstrations have disrupted business operations, the protest rallies in Davao City have always been peaceful, according to Cariaga.

He said he had been meeting with travel groups in Davao, and there was no cancellation of bookings, despite the state of emergency.

This despite the issuance of travel advisories by Malaysia, Australia and Hong Kong, that warned citizens from these countries against travel to the Philippines.

Cariaga said even the export sector was not affected by the declaration.

"Transactions by our exporters and importers are hardly affected at all because our Customs office is operating as usual," he said.

Joji Ilagan Bian, Mindanao representative to the Export Development Council (EDC), said it was hard to quantify the losses that business may have incurred because 1017 was in effect for just a week.

But she said the greater damage was the negative impression that it made on investors and the international community.

The perception of instability of the country's political climate has a direct impact on the economy, she said.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
for the
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING (AML) PROJECT

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) is conducting a two-stage public bidding procedure for the procurement of an AML solution for the **AML System Project.**

The primary purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of a fully integrated, **"commercial-off-the-shelf"** AML solution which includes the following components:

- Software application, licences and other software components (DBMS; APIs; connectors; middlewares; etc.)
- Hardware components (Database application, report and all other required servers; disaster recovery servers; disk storage; etc.)
- Various technical tools

Furthermore, the AML solution provider shall also be responsible for the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) process, that is, the extraction of all required data from the different source systems, data transformation and data loading to the target database(s). The solution provider shall also be responsible for the following requisite activities: source to target mapping, data availability and quality assessment, design and development of the ETL routines and system integration testing of the ETL routines. The solution provider has the option to use the Bank's existing ETL tool -- Informatica PowerCenter 7.1.2 to facilitate the ETL process.

To ensure the highest degree of fit of the AML solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope likewise covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities like change management planning and communication, the review of ***"As Is"*** processes, business process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the ***"To Be"*** processes, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the required organizational and process changes.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and process such as systems integration, project management, system development lifecycle, change management, technology transfer (training and documentation), and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the system has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the effectiveness of the system.

As per section 5 (p) of IRR-A of RA 9184, the procurement for this Information and Communications Technology (ICT) project is considered as one for goods.

Interested parties may secure the **Eligibility Requirements**, upon signing of the **Confidentiality Agreement, from February 27 to March 10, 2006, during regular office hours (between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm,** from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines

Telephone	+63 2 405-7123
Fax Number	+63 2 528-8578
Contact Person	Alan V. Bornas Head - Technology Management Group IT-BAC Member
Email Address	itbac@mail.landbank.com

The **Letter of Intent**, the accomplished **Bidder Evaluation Forms (List of Projects and Project Team Information)** and the rest of the **Eligibility Requirements** must be submitted by **March 10, 2006, 3:00 pm**, to the aforementioned address. Only parties who pass the **Eligibility Check** shall be allowed to participate in the second stage of this two-stage bidding prodecure.

Those eligible bidders whose technical tenders meet the minimum required performance standards shall be notified accordingly and may secure the **Bidding Documents (e.g. Request for Proposal, etc.) from March 23 to 24, 2006, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).** For all these qualified parties, the **Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on March 28, 2006 (Tuesday), 10:00 am**, at the aforementioned address.

The **Approved Budget for the Contract is Thirty Five Million Pesos (PhP35,000,000.00, inclusive of all taxes**, which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP

LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation

(Sgd.) **JOSE CARMELO C. NOGRALES**
Executive Vice President
Chairman, IT-BAC

(PDI – February 27 & March 6, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard Corner Pablo Ocampo, Sr. Street
Manila 1004
ONE-STOP SHOP INTER-AGENCY TAX CREDIT AND DUTY DRAWBACK CENTER

AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT DATED OCTOBER 13, 2000 DEFINING THE GUIDELINES ON TRANSFERABILITY OF TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES ISSUED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 226, THE OMNIBUS INVESTMENT CODE

Pursuant to Section 9 of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated October 13, 2000 executed by and between the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Department of Finance (DOF) in compliance with the provision of Article 21 of Executive Order No. 226 (E.O. 226) regarding the transferability of tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued under the said E.O., the following additional guidelines are hereby adopted:

"1. *Transfers by companies belonging to a distressed industry sector:*

Transferors belonging to an industry sector which BOI has assessed to be in distress shall be allowed to transfer their outstanding TCCs to any BOI-registered transferees without requiring them to comply with the conditions imposed under Section 1c, 1e and 1f of the prevailing MOA, *provided* that this type of transfer shall be allowed for one year only from official notification to the Center by BOI that the industry sector is in distress without prejudice to renewal thereof upon approval by the Executive Committee."

"2. *Section 9 of the MOA is hereby amended to include the following paragraph:*

"Henceforth, in order to simplify the administrative process in amending the existing MOA, and since BOI and DOF are well represented in the Center's Excom, any amendment to the prevailing MOA including exceptions to the guidelines for meritorious consideration shall now be done through a resolution duly approved by the Center's Executive Committee, which resolution shall be for implementation without the need for another MOA between BOI and DOF, subject to compliance with the provisions of EO 226 and with the required administrative procedures under the Administrative Code."

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS	DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
(Sgd.) ELMER C. HERNANDEZ Undersecretary	(Sgd.) GAUDENCIO A. MENDOZA, JR. Undersecretary

Signed in the presence of:

(Sgd.) EFREN V. LEANO Executive Director Board of Investments	(Sgd.) ERNESTO Q. HIANSEN Executive Director OSS-CENTER

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION } S.S.
CITY OF MANILA }

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 14th day of February 2006, in the City of Manila, affiants exhibited to me their Community Tax Certificates as follows:

NAMES	CTC Number	ISSUED AT	ISSUED ON
Elmer C. Hernandez	12259003	Meycauayan, Bulacan	5-Jan-06
Gaudencio A. Mendoza, Jr.	02176026	Makati City	21-Jan-06

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set may hand and affixed my notarial seal on the day, year, and place above written.

Doc. No. 334
Page No.: 63
Book No.: V
Series of 2006

(Sgd.) ATTY. GERVACIO B. ORTIZ JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
PTR 4179668 / 1-2-06
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2006
TIN # 130-501-860

(PDI—Feb. 20, 27 & March 6, 2006)

National roadmap for 2030

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Evelyn R. Singson

OUR GREATEST FEAR THAT APATHY OR INdifference has afflicted the Filipino nation is allayed by our presence here today.

Our response to the call of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia to participate in crafting a National Roadmap for the Philippines is a firm affirmation of our faith in the future of this country and a confirmation of our belief that the obstacles and difficulties of the present time, though disconcerting, will come to pass.

Our fate as a country is in our hands and a beautiful future will await us if we act together as one people, forgetting our own selfish interests and letting love of country prevail in our thoughts, in our hearts and in our deeds. Today we accept the responsibility for affirmative action. We concur with the ISA that there is the more important task of planning the future directions for the country and shaping it to become the country we want to bequeath to our next generation of Filipinos, even if sometimes we get trapped in the myopic view of the issues and problems of the day.

The Management Association of the Philippines, a consistent and strong advocate of long-term planning, is honored to be the lead organization in harnessing the resources of the business community and defining its role, in partnership with all other sectors, in creating the national roadmap. MAP, whose members are the chief executives of organizations that generate much of the country's wealth and whose sphere of influence extends to other business associations, is certainly willing to lead private enterprise in participating in purposeful, selfless, positive and well-coordinated actions to build a strong nation.

The role of business in the development of a nation is so clearly articulated in a joint statement of the CEO task force on global corporate citizenship, World Economic Forum which says "The greatest contribution we, businessmen, can make to development is to do business in a manner that obeys the law, produces safe and cost effective products and services, create jobs and wealth, support training and technology cooperation and reflect international standards and values in areas such as the environment, ethics, labor and human rights. To make every effort to enhance the positive multipliers of our activities and to minimize any negative impact on people and the environment, everywhere we invest and operate. A key element of this is recognizing that the frameworks we adopt for being a responsible business must move beyond philanthropy and be integrated into core business strategy and practice." Simply stated, the overriding objective of business is to reach a level of productivity that will allow our own businesses to competitively sell our products and services to a free and open market. Only when our country succeeds in attaining global competitiveness can business truly achieve its ultimate purpose—that of becoming the key driver to growth so that it can spread, share and sustain the benefits of development by delivering prosperity to as many people as possible.

How then can we produce goods and services that can meet the standards of quality and performance acceptable to the international markets? We begin by identifying the obstacles that preclude businesses from squarely facing competition in the marketplace. These problems are no secret to us. The solutions are staring us in the face yet we have not demonstrated the political will nor the patriotism we need to break these barriers down. Let us highlight some of the imperatives that the business sector roadmap must critically examine:

1. Good governance and adherence to sound ethical standards by both the private and the public sectors. Corruption, bribery and weak governance create direct and indirect costs and risks which contribute to uncompetitive prices for our goods and services.

2. Our physical infrastructure which are also made inefficient by corruption and poor planning hampering the easy and reasonable access of market.

3. Our educational system that fail to produce the skills, talents and work ethics that will supply the needs of industry in the quality demanded by international standards.

4. The optimum use of information and technology to develop cost effective processes that will upgrade quality, reduce costs, broaden market knowledge and sharpen decision making.

5. The justice system that is perceived to be fair, efficient and accountable and operates under a stable and predictable regulatory framework.

6. Political and economic stability which can only come when the economic and social needs of the poor in society are addressed.

7. Financial information that is fair, transparent and fully compliant with international standards of reporting.

8. Accessibility and availability of capital and credit at terms appropriate to the nature of the enterprise.

9. Corporate citizenship, which includes corporate social responsibility, becomes mainstreamed as part of the core business of companies.

The elements for achieving the goals of business in the service of the common good, brings to focus the necessity of collaboration with other sectors, under the national umbrella such as the ISA. If the sectoral roadmaps are to succeed, all sectors must work to demand strong and effective governance of public institutions which in the end should take the lead in harnessing the competencies and contribution of all sectors, including the resources, productivity and innovation of the private sector. The challenges we face are complex and interdependent and therefore all sectors have their share to do as no one group, has a monopoly of all the solutions. ISA is doing the right thing by promoting, through the national roadmap, the common reference for all the sectors to use as they confront the more concrete and specific challenge of what they can do for the common good.

In full support of ISA's effort we in MAP, in cooperation with other groups in the business community, are prepared to present the business sector roadmap in August of this year. Let us sow the seed of hope today so we may harvest its fruit tomorrow.

(Speech delivered at the conference on "Sowing of Seeds of Hope." The author is president of the Management Association of the Philippines and eBusiness Services Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.

Replacing . . .

From page B3-4

When you're doing well, instead of patting yourself on the back, go shopping. Look around for somebody that's bigger, better, faster, and smarter than you are. Study their successes and benchmark your results against theirs. I did this as a young leader, because very quickly in my field, I had successes. Instead of being content as the number one leader in my organization, I started going to other organizations where I wouldn't be in the top 100.

It was an exercise in humility; but I immediately realized the way to refocus wasn't to compare myself against everyone I was beating, but to compare myself with somebody better than I was.

2. Stir up inspirational dissatisfaction.

Inspirational dissatisfaction does not mean you are never pleased or satisfied. Nor is it a license to beat yourself up or come down hard on your people. Instead, it's a creative awareness that you can do better.

You can do more to improve personally and to invest exhaustively in the growth of your team. This state of mind unlocks your comfort zone and prompts you to keep on stretching.

3. Develop a daily dose of paranoia.

There's a difference between a daily dose and an overdose of paranoia. An overdose makes you and everyone around you miserable. A daily dose is an inner rustling—a pebble in the shoe—that creates just enough discomfort to keep you continually alert and engaged. In fact, the best leaders act as though someone is out to get them, like they're on the verge of losing every customer every day.

4. Continue to set goals that stretch your team.

If you can reach your goals with a "business as usual" approach, then your goals are too small. A goal is only effective when it forces changes, big decisions, and bold action.

The thinking of a leader is contagious to the team. As a leader, you broadcast your way of thinking to your people, and they are going to pick up on your signals immediately.

Unsuccessful leaders focus their thinking on survival—"If I can just make it through the year." Average leaders focus their thinking on maintenance—"If I can just hold on to what I have." Successful leaders focus their thinking on continual progress.

If you're a manager who concentrates more on holding your own than on moving forward, then it's time to seize the offensive. Don't settle for what conditions force upon you.

As Marcus Buckingham says, "The only thing that leaders have in common is leaders break all the rules."

Great leaders don't just buy into what everybody else is saying, and they don't follow the beaten path. Great leaders are constantly creating their own conditions for success by blazing new trails.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!)

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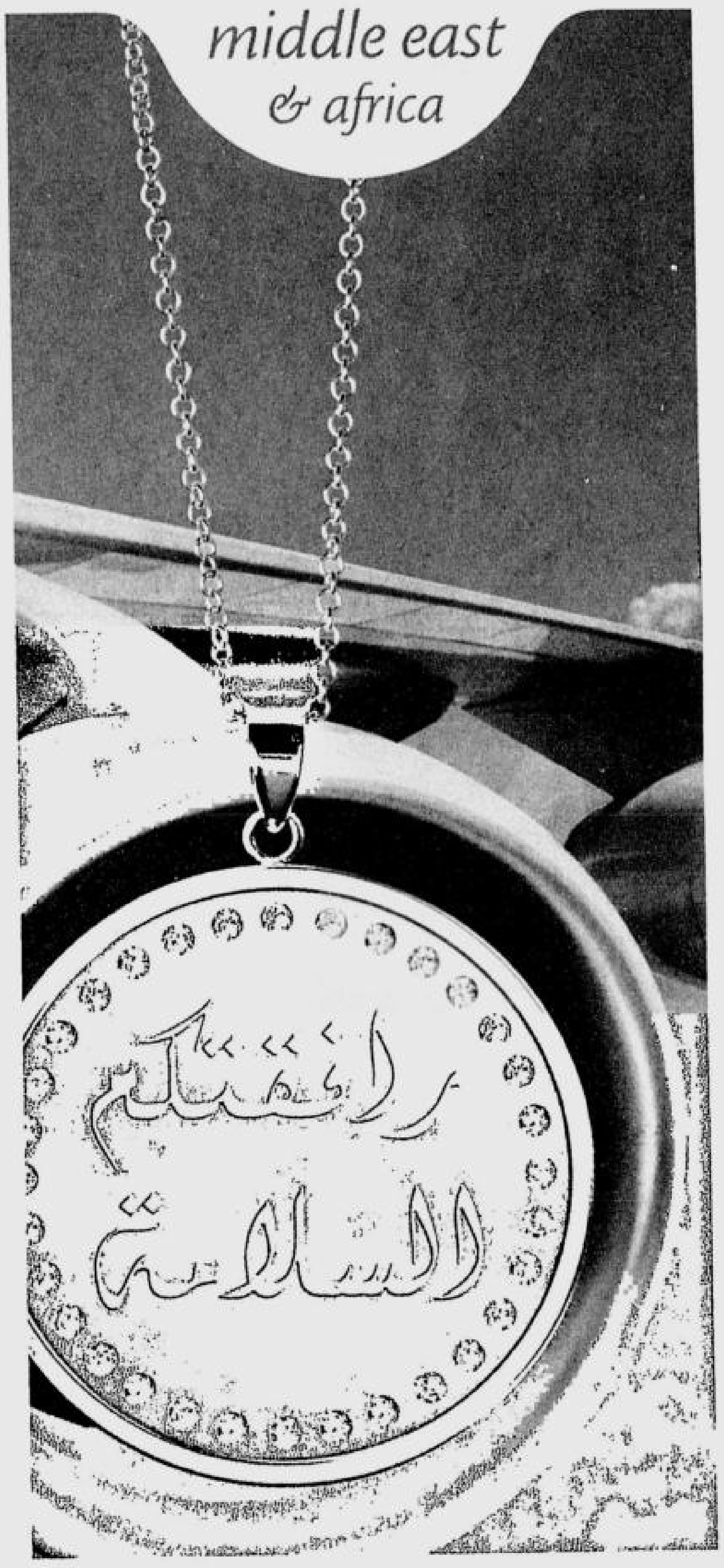

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Complete address rule

Corporate Securities Info

Raul Palabrica

MOST BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS tend to be stingy with words when they state in their corporate documents their principal place of business or the address of their officials and stockholders.

The information about the location of the corporate office or residence of the incorporators is usually limited to the name of the street and the city or municipality where it is situated.

There are instances when the address indicated is an unknown building or condominium, the name of a street, then ends with "Metro Manila." The name of the city or municipality is omitted.

The refusal or hesitation to give more details about the address probably stems from security concerns or the desire of the affected parties to maintain their privacy.

The problem with vague addresses is, it is difficult to locate them when notices or summons have to be served on corporations or partnerships, or their officers and stockholders.

Since other government offices rely on the Securities and Exchange Commission for data about private business organizations they deal with, the need for accurate information assumes greater importance.

Disclosure

To meet the "full disclosure" requirement of existing laws, the SEC has, effective last week, laid down new rules on the submission of information about addresses.

SEC Circular No. 3, series of 2006, states that all corporations and partnerships applying for registration should state in their articles of incorporation or partnership the following information:

- The specific address of their principal office which shall include, if feasible, the street number, street name, barangay, city or municipality.
- The specific residence address of each incorporator, stockholder, director, trustee or partner.

The old practice of simply indicating "Metro Manila" as the principal place of business will no longer be allowed.

This is not to denigrate the status of Metro Manila, but stating it as the place where a business entity can receive mail is simply impractical.

Specific address

For corporations or partnerships already registered with the SEC, there is no need for them to amend their organic papers to conform to this information requirement.

Whatever data they earlier submitted to the SEC to support their registration are considered *fait accompli* (or established facts) which are no longer open to amendments or changes.

They will remain in the official records as the basis for the issuance of their certificate of registration.

But this does not mean these business organizations are excused from making available to the public, if needed, relevant information about the addresses of the people who manage their affairs.

The circular also requires all corporations to state in the general information sheet (GIS) that they are obliged to submit annually the specific residence address of each stockholder, officer, director or trustee.

So, if for one reason or another the persons mentioned have to be held responsible—personally or in their corporate capacity—for questionable actions of the corporation, the authorities know where to look for them if the company has closed shop.

Thanks to our gossipy society, there is always a relative, friend or bystander in the community who can give information about the forwarding address or whereabouts of somebody they know who has changed residences.

Consequences

Since the SEC circular does not provide for any exception, the disclosure requirement on addresses applies equally to lawyers who act as "dummies" for client corporations.

No ifs and buts about it, their residence, not office address, has to be spelled out clearly in the GIS.

As in other regulatory procedures, it is expected that some parties would attempt to evade compliance or stretch the interpretation of the rules to suit their interests.

For new applicants for registration of corporations or partnership, the failure to state the required address will result in the outright rejection of the application.

An undertaking to amend the documents after the certificate of registration has been issued will not be allowed.

In the case of the GIS, the use of an incomplete address will invalidate the document for purposes of compliance with the reportorial requirements.

And if a corrected version of the GIS is not filed within the prescribed period, the corresponding penalty, depending on the retained earnings for stock corporations and fund balance for non-stock corporations, will be imposed.

(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph

Replacing complacency

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

ONE OF THE biggest temptations that leaders of successful organizations face is thinking big.

After a taste of success, even the best and brightest leaders suddenly start to think complacently. When a company gets on a roll, some leaders tighten up and start playing it safe. They stop playing to win and begin playing not to lose. Where they once thought big and new, now they think incrementally.

This temptation is a reality with a lot of sports teams. How many times have we seen teams lose their momentum and then lose the game because instead of playing to win, they began to play not to lose?

They get ahead, but then they pull back and stop playing with the intensity that earned them the lead.

The same temptation traps company executives. With the organization exceeding expectations and making record profits, the leadership gets excited.

The organization appears to be cruising toward its best year ever, when all of a sudden, the focus shifts from gaining momentum to sustaining momentum. The moment leadership changes focus, momentum vanishes.

I like to think of momentum as the great exaggerator. When you have it, people think you're better than you are. You're on a roll and everybody is amazed by your success.

When you lose momentum, people think you're worse than you are. Momentum magnifies your performance, and positive momentum can be a potent force to push you forward.

When things are on a roll, don't sit on the ball—run up the score! In other words, when you've got momentum going for you, put the pedal to the metal. Take off. Ignite momentum. As I wrote in "Thinking for a Change," "We are today where our thoughts brought us, and we will be tomorrow where our thoughts take us."

When we stop thinking big as leaders and dwell upon protecting past successes, we start to think conservatively. The big thoughts that gave us a big year are replaced by conservative thoughts, which will give us a mediocre year.

Let me give you four strategies that will keep your momentum moving in the right direction.

1. When you're doing well, go shopping.

REPLACING/ B3-3

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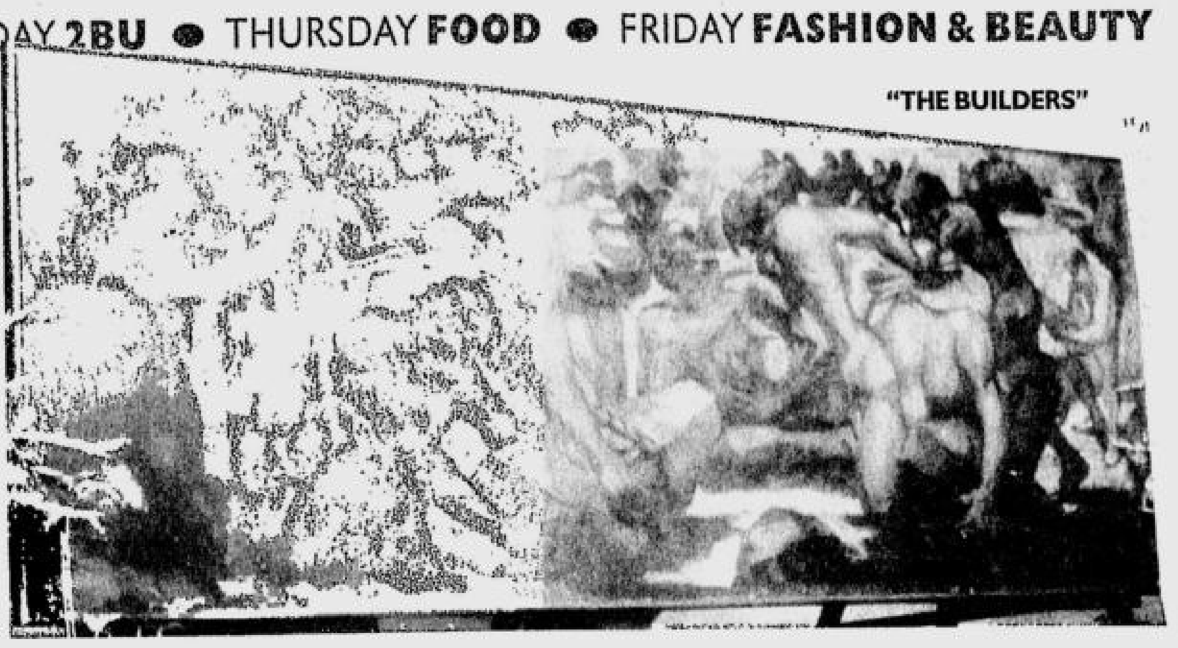
Victorio Edades, father of Philippine modern art

His former student, now a senior artist, remembers the National Artist, whose 21st death anniversary the nation marks today


"THE BUILDERS"

By James Onglepho
Contributor

FROM 1954 TO 1958, MY biggest artistic influences were Victorio C. Edades and Gabriel Custodio, whom I had had the great opportunity to meet while taking up Fine Arts in Manila at the time.

Professor Edades was born in Dagupan City, Pangasinan on Dec. 23, 1895. Coming from a poor farmer's family and the youngest of 10 children, he had shown an early interest in drawing.

In 1915, he was enrolled at Pangasinan High School in Lingayen. After graduating, he got a scholarship from the University of Washington. Edades and five schoolmates took a passenger ship to San Francisco in April 1919. They reached San Francisco after two months by ship and then took the train to Washington.

There, Edades studied Architecture. He kept drawing every day, until his chest hurt. A doctor advised him to slow down, and he returned to the Philippines for a vacation. When he went back to the US to resume his studies, he decided to shift to Fine Arts.

At the time, he was already tremendously interested in the works of Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) and Diego Velasquez (1559-1660). He also saw the works of Paul Cezanne (1839-1906), Henri Matisse (1869-1954) and Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) in a group exhibit in 1922. It was at the time that Edades' painting style changed from realism to neo-impressionism.

Edades earned his bachelor's degree from University of Washington in 1925, and proceeded to get his master's, staying there for nine years. His master's thesis was the 48" x 125.5" work titled "The Builders." Recognized as Edades' masterpiece, it is now with the collection of the Cultural Center of the Philippines .

While studying the theory and technique of painting from European perspectives, Edades realized America was a young country, like the Philippines. It had no culture it could call its own yet. Edades even noted that

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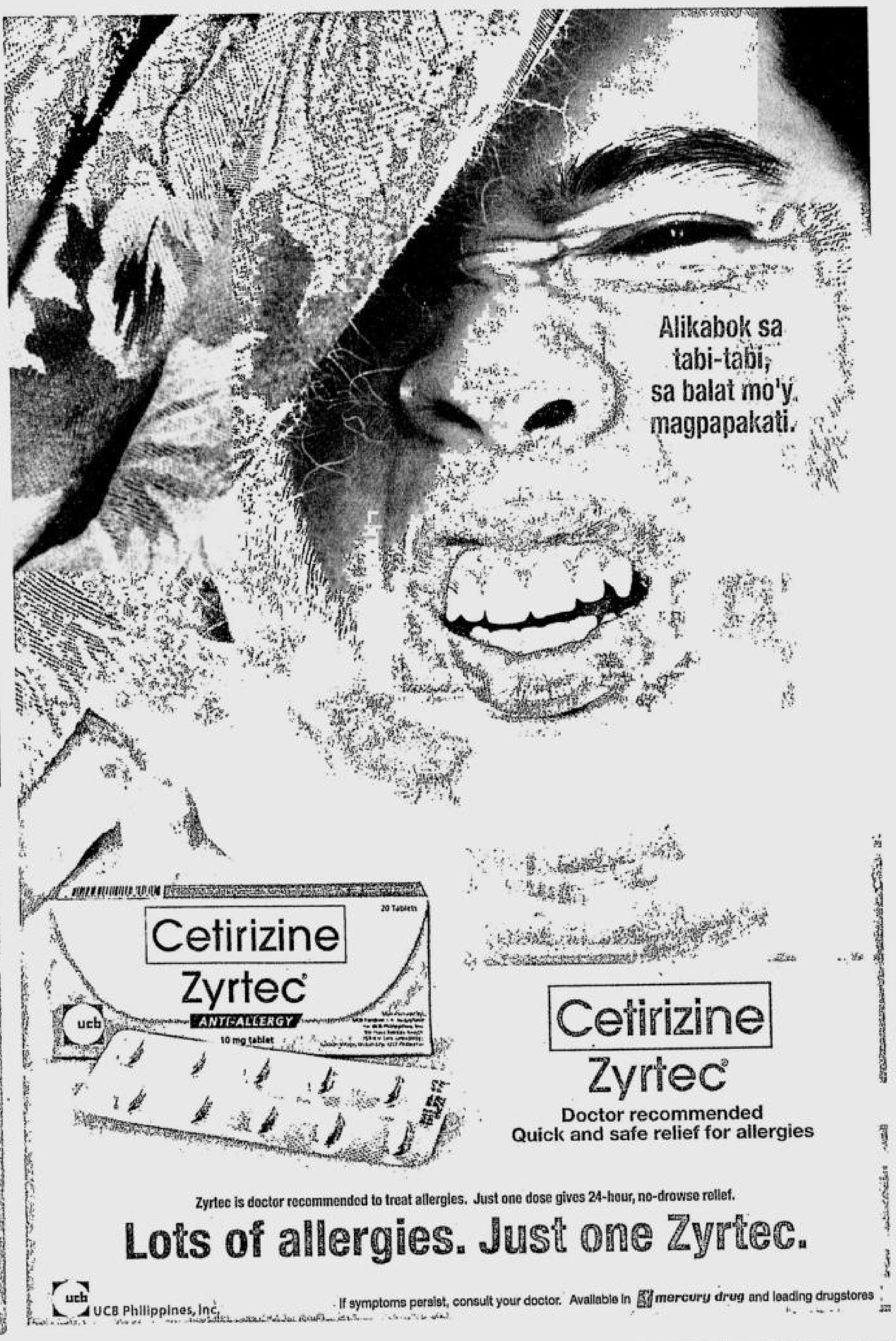
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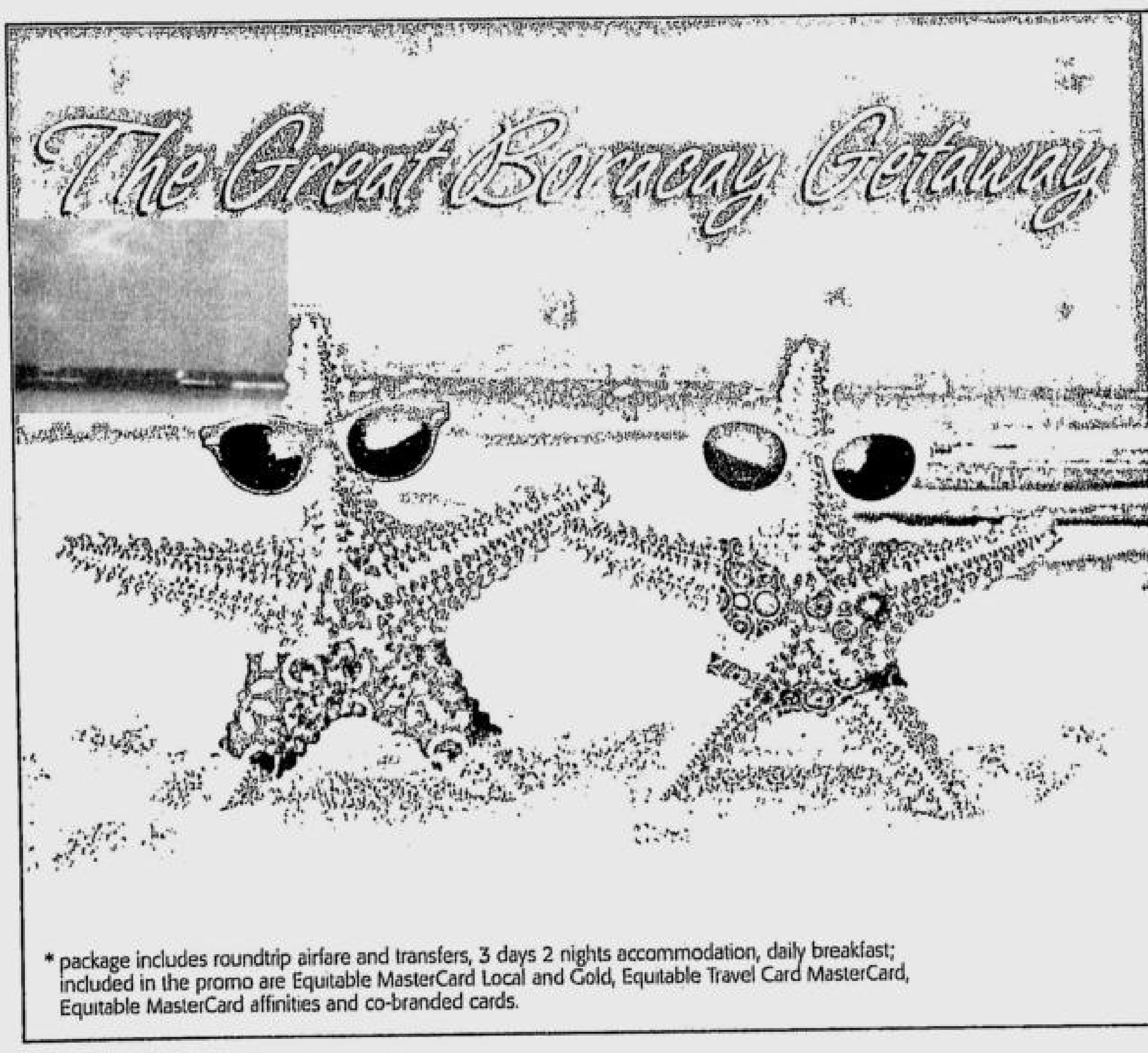
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Victorio Edades . . .

From page C1

when he was studying Architecture, he was learning the French principle of design.

During the course of his study, he met Jean Carrot, who later posed for his paintings. They fell in love and got married after he earned his master's in 1928. They returned to the Philippines shortly.

Edades loved his country so much and wanted to contribute here what he learned in America. But during that period, there were no galleries and no organized art associations in Manila. He found little encouragement to spur public interest in the arts. Painting was considered a pastime, not a full-time profession.

Defiant

Edades defied such conditions in 1929 when he exhibited his artworks at the Philippine Columbian Club in Ermita, Manila, defending his right to self-expression. His style at the time was neo-impressionistic, like Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) and Cezanne. His masterpiece, "The Builders," was characterized by strong composition and dark colors.

Edades introduced modern art to the Philippines when it was still largely a conservative society. The public was not ready to appreciate his works, and not one of his paintings was sold.

He wrote his personal account of the beginnings of modern art in the article "The Last 30 Years of Filipino Art," published in Philippine Magazine in 1956. "The history of Filipino art during the last 30 years is strictly the history of Modern Art in the Philippines," he wrote.

" ...When I was a senior student in the University of Washington Fine Arts Department in 1925, I was admitted into the Seattle Fine Arts Society through the recommendation of my professor—Walter F. Isaacs. The following year, I took part in the Pacific Northwest Art Competition conducted by the Society, in which my painting titled 'The Sketch' won the First Honorable Mention, the only award given besides First Prize, which was won by one of my professors."

He wrote that when he exhibited 'The Sketch' at the Philippine Columbian Club, there was an uproar. Classically trained and academe-based artists condemned the work and others like it. It was the start of the clash between the classicists and the modernists.

Edades ended his article: "It [the exhibit] served as the opening salvo for the battle between the Conservatives and the Moderns which has continued ever since and which will continue till the Moderns win in the end."

At Santo Tomas

Perhaps because he had met the Dominicans in Pangasinan (the province was the Dominicans' mission post), Edades conducted the modernist battle largely from the Dominican-run University of Santo Tomas, whose School of Fine Arts he helped establish in 1935.

Edades taught at UST for three decades, and was joined by the likes of Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Galo B. Ocampo, Diosdado Lorenzo, Antonio Garcia Llamas, Vicente Manansala and J. Elizalde Navarro.

It was at the time when the UST School of Fine Arts became the seat of modern art.

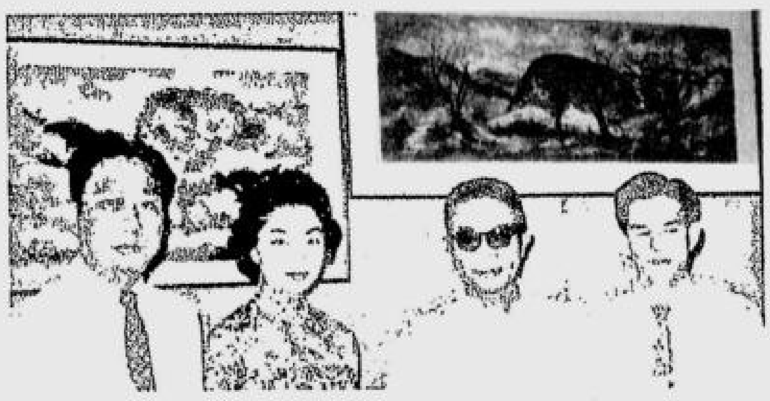
In 1934, architect Juan Nakpil invited Edades to paint a mural for the lobby of Capitol Theater on Escolta, Manila. Edades sought the help of the then 22-year-old "Botong" Francisco, who, in turn, invited surrealist and fellow UP School of Fine Arts classmate Galo Ocampo.

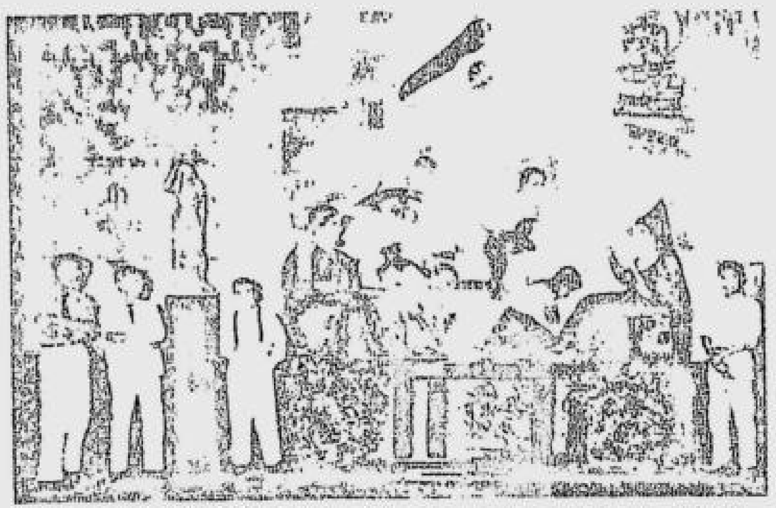
They all worked on the composition, while Edades provided the initial sketches. Titled "The Rising Philippines," it was among the first significant murals in the country.

Modern art began to flourish but modern artists still were working on their own. They needed to work as a group to make modern art significant.

Because he was the foremost modernist advocate, Edades led the so-called Thirteen Moderns. The group included Edades, Francisco, Lorenzo, Manansala, Galo B. Ocampo, H.R. Ocampo, Anita Magsaysay, Cesar Legaspi, Demetrio Diego, Ricarte Puruganan, José S. Pardo, Bonifacio Cristobal and Arsenio Capili.

Though World War II might have aborted collective attempts to promote modern art more aggressively, the Thirteen Moderns eventually shone individually in the postwar era.


JAMES Onglepho's (right) first one-man exhibit at China Art Gallery, Acacia Shopping Lane, Manila Hotel, Bonifacio Drive, Manila, on March 19, 1959. Guests of honor were Ambassador and Madame C.M. Chen and Professor Edades (third from left)


"THE RISING Philippines" mural at Capitol Theater, Escolta, Manila, with Carlos Francisco, Severino Fabie, Galo Ocampo and Edades

Powerful pedagogue

Edades, whose educational background made him one of the most progressive artists of his time, stressed free expression more than anything else, and "not to be afraid of making mistakes."

He once wondered why I wasn't a regular student, and persuaded me to finish my bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. I replied: "I am studying Fine Arts and painting, but my foremost goal is to become a painter one day. If that dream doesn't come true, it's no use having a degree."

Edades understood my position and was very supportive.

Since that conversation, I noticed that Edades was spending more time in his life painting class, teaching me all I needed to know. And he saw that I was doing better.

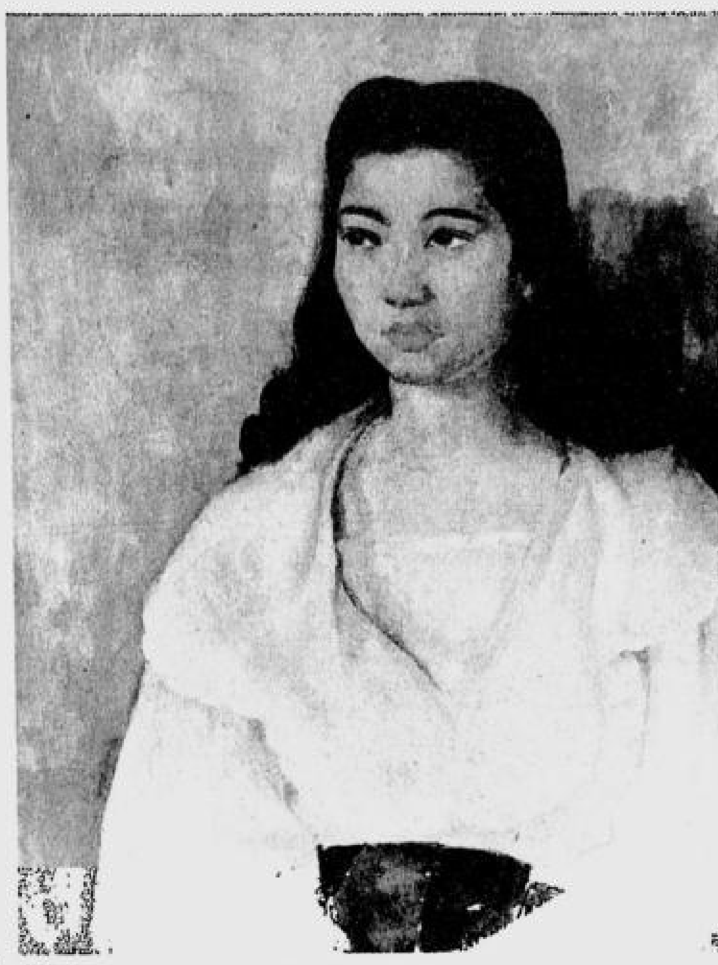
Whenever he found a good-looking model, he would invite some of my classmates and me to his home on Pilar Street near Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, for a painting session. I learned so much from his Life Painting class.

In March 1955, I was inspired to join the life-painting competition in UST, where I won the honorable mention.

In the same year, in the Shell National Art Competition, my oil painting "Vista por la Noche" won a special prize. The painting was featured in the company's 1956 calendar, and was included in their art collection.

That competition had two separate categories for modern and conservative art. Excluding the special prize, there were three different winners for each category.

On Aug. 5 later that year, the works were exhibited at the Northern Motors Showroom, and First Lady Luz Magsaysay sponsored the awarding ceremony. Of the seven winners, five were students of Edades at UST. He himself posted the newspaper clippings of the results of the Shell contest on the bulletin boards.


"MODERN Maria Clara," by Edades

As an educator, professor Edades did not try to intimidate his students, nor was he very strict with us. He was committed to his job, and we easily sensed his sincerity. He encouraged his students to develop their own styles, and didn't force them to adopt his style.

I remember him telling us, "If you are studying painting, you must be patient, so that you can develop your artistic talent. You must also be sincere with your work to become successful one day."

Edades' skills as an educator proved to be one of his biggest strengths. He encouraged us to gain a broader sense of history: "Know how art was developed, and at the same time understand music, literature and philosophy. Do not just limit yourself to one interest or area of study."

He maintained that painting, sculpture and music were only a few of the many manifestations of art. Art, he insisted, must be part of "all that we touch, see and hear in everyday life."

Edades emphasized that one's painting style usually depended on the painter's background: "Do not be afraid to change your style, because, as you change your outlook in life, your style will also change."

He added: "The influence of the Masters is not bad. Let other artists influence you, but don't copy them. If you just copy others' works, you will not develop as an artist."

Good mentor

I was very fortunate to have him as one of my mentors. Even after so many years since I left UST, he was always generous in supporting my artistic pursuits.

When I mounted my first one-man exhibit in 1958 at China Art Gallery, Acacia Shopping Lane, Manila Hotel, Bonifacio Drive, Manila, Edades was there and commended me for the improvement of my painting techniques.

In 1980, after sending Edades an invitation to my exhibit at ABC Gallery, he wrote back from Davao to thank me for the invitation, and complimented the color reproduction of one of my paintings.

He wrote: "I admire the delicate color of the lotus petal, which blends very well with the bluish green leaves and deep cobalt-blue water... I am very happy, indeed, to see your present work to be a great improvement, and I hope you will continue painting in the years to come."

Cusi leads WorldBex artists

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE NAME RAFAEL CUSI STANDS OUT among the country's best bets for international stardom. He has exhibited in various sites in Europe and Asia, and has finalized bookings for solo shows in various galleries in Berlin, Chelsea, Brussels and Luxembourg.

He is also featured in the art exhibit at the 11th WorldBex to be held at the World Trade Center March 7-11: "On Home Ground: Divergent Views of the Global Village by 21 Contemporary Filipino Artists."

Sometime in March, he will be featured as principal artist in the coffeetable book "A Trail of the Senses," a commemorative publication of Baguio University to mark its founding.

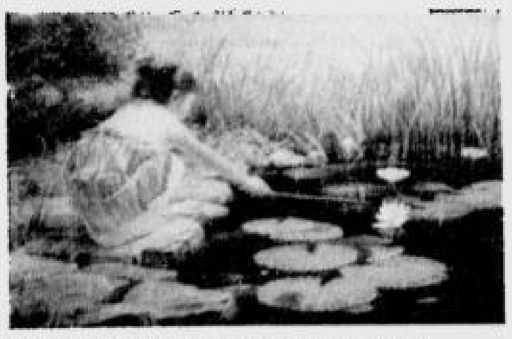
Rooted

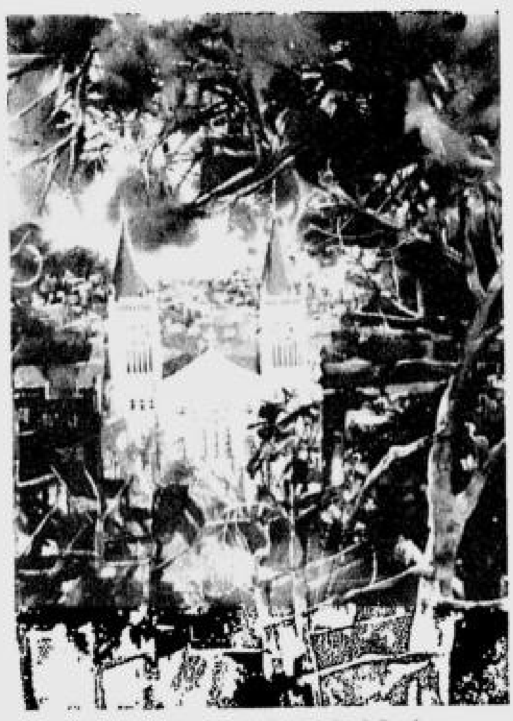
The 55-year-old Cusi, who hails from Bongabon, Mindoro Oriental, remains firmly rooted on home ground despite the phenomenal streak of good fortune coming his way. He continues to paint every day, maintains a spartan schedule as he has all these years, wherever he is, and never allows fame and fortune to take the better of him.

In fact, last December, for the book Des Bautista of Baguio University commissioned him, he practically lived in the modest hotel reserved for him so he could work on the book pieces, with no distractions and interruptions in his work schedule.

What is more amazing in Cusi's work ethics as painter is that he prefers to visit unknown sites and discover for himself what is worth painting in his itinerary.

In Baguio, which he knows intimately, having lived there from the late 1970s through the '80s, he chose the lairs that offered much potential for his sketching needs.


"KALARO ni Bunso," by Nilo Badajos


"BAGUIO Cathedral," by Rafael Cusi

Not the type who would rely on photographs, he seizes the moment that holds a particular place together, be it the surrounding foliage, the changing weather in the city that he calls an odd mix of hot and cold, infusing his personal, indeed, magical, touch, by way of his vibrant brushwork, the spontaneous massing of color and texture, and executed in his perpetually brisk and unpredictably exuberant mode.

Stunning

Cusi's dexterity with a variety of media—watercolor, acrylic, oil pastel, and various drawing instruments such as charcoal, ink and pencil—had never been more explored than in the stunning book pieces.

Indeed, with the sun always in unpredictable mood, and the weather even more so, he had to let go of his brush in one swoop, a habit he acquired from years of traveling to distant places.

He admits his adrenalin delivers unfailingly out in the open, rather than in the enclosed boundaries of the studio. For him, the great outdoor is where one learns to work from the heart straight to his art.

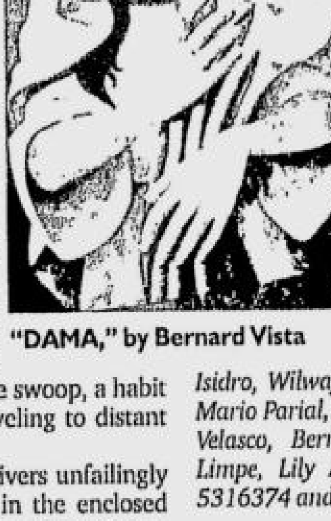
The artist may be making the leap from WorldBex to one of the world's best

The artist, equally renowned for his underwater art, has chosen a number of fresh new works for the 11th WorldBex show, which this writer is privileged to curate.

Together with 20 leading and emerging artists, from Nune Alvarado and Fil Delacruz to Raul Isidro and Edwin Wilwayco, as well as a number of new names, Cusi has gone back to his one true love—the waterworld of his youth with sundry creatures which gorgeously leap out of his canvases. (This is the subject of the book, "Underwater Series," which is the artist's pitch for the environment.)

The water theme in his art is an obsession. The new works are a testament to the full ripening of his gifts, and the fulfillment of an artistic credo to always look back and take a giant leap.

Cusi is slated to exhibit his works at The Gallery at Chelsea Library in the Royal Borough of Kensington in Chelsea, through the courtesy of Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu, May 29-June 3. He will proceed to The Gallery at Allianz Building in Berlin, Germany, for the Philippine Independence Day celebrations.

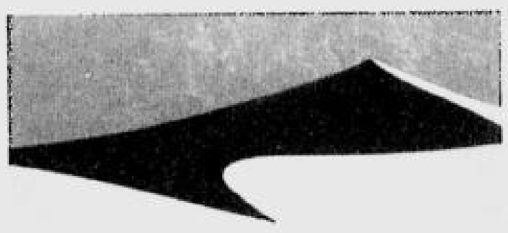

"DAMA," by Bernard Vista

Next stop will be Luxembourg through the Philippine-Luxembourg Society and its president Jean Grotz. His final destinations are Brussels, Belgium, sponsored by the Knights of Rizal in Antwerp, Belgium chapter; and The Hague in Netherlands.

Other Filipino artists at the 11th WorldBex (Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition), March 7-11, at the World Trade Center are Isidro, Wilwayco, Fred Ramirez, Florence Cinco, Mario Parial, Alvarado, Al Perez, Delacruz, Lydia Velasco, Bernard Vista, Nilo Badajos, Julius Limpe, Lily Avila-Wuzela, Joey Cobcobo. Call 5316374 and 5316350.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

VISUAL ARTS



Esguerra at InterCon

"CHASING LIGHT AND CATCHING SHADOWS," an exhibit of landscape photography by Carlos Esguerra, opens on March 7, 6:30 p.m., at the Lobby of InterContinental Manila. Part of the proceeds will go to community projects of the InterCon. Call 8159711 loc. 231 and 233.

Mindanao artists at Linya

LINYA Gallery is holding its annual group exhibit until March 31 at Linya Gallery (G&S Padilla Bldg., A. Bonifacio Ave., Tibanga, Iligan City). The exhibit features artworks by Rameer Tawasil of Zamboanga City; Errol Balcos and Jake Vamenta of Cagayan de Oro City; Edson de la Cruz, Ivan Macarambon, Lea Padilla and Kurt Lluch of Iligan City; and Jun Cayas and Joseph Rom of Davao City. Call (063) 2216312.

Doctolero show

ARTIST-RUN Independent Art Space Suite (318-A LRI Business Plaza, Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati) presents "Luck-Bayan: Unity of Colors," an exhibit by F.R. Doctolero, until March 20. Call 8959837.

Asian artists at Ayala

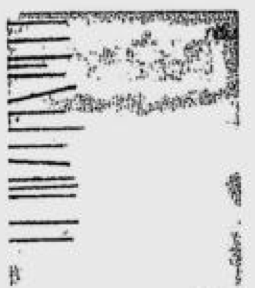
AYALA Museum presents an exhibit of contemporary art by members of the Federation of Asian Countries. "20th Asian International Art Exhibition" focuses on the theme "Being Asian, Being Asia." This ongoing exhibit, which runs until March 26, features 171 recent works, paintings and sculptures. Call 7577117 to 21.

Painting contest

"LIKHANG Sining," an on-the-spot painting competition for high-school students, is set on March 11 at Ayala Museum. Entry forms are available at the nearest Rotary Office or at Ayala Museum. Call 7577117 or 7533098. Deadline is March 8.

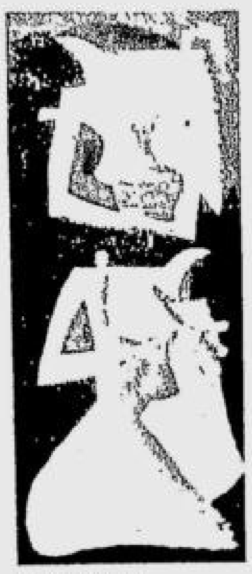
Cunanan exhibit

CONTEMPORARY artist Dyun Cunanan is holding a one-man exhibit of abstract paintings, "Celestial Perception," until March 22 at Walls, G/F of Triumph Bldg, 1610, Quezon Ave., QC. Call 9279750 or 5435558.


"JUST Another Day," by Lina Llaguno-Ciani

Ciani at Duemila

GALLERIA Duemila will present "One Hundred Forty Eggs," by artist Lina Llaguno-Ciani, March 11-31. Duemila is at 210 Loring St., Pasay City. Call 8319990 or 8339815.


A WORK by Magpantay

Magpantay at Philamlife

EXPRESSIONIST painter Mala Magpantay presents "Paleta" until March 12, at the Philamlife Center, UN Avenue, Manila. The exhibit features oil paintings of Filipino women. Call 2490585 or 0919-6052649.

Design and nation-building

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

WHEN THE DESIGN CENTER PHILIPPINES was founded in 1973, among its primary mandates was to improve the global position of the export industry through good design.

Those were the handicraft days when products were mostly handmade from natural materials that have now become either extinct or seriously endangered.

Handicraft production during those days was an endless variation on the same basic design. Everything looked the same. Each season, there was hardly anything new to excite the global market into placing orders.

The Design Center Philippines set out to reshape the Philippine image in the global export market. To achieve the task, an entire design structure had to be created, including the system necessary to sustain it.

The new design structure was the mechanism for moving Philippine exports away from the low-priced "cheap and cheerful" handicraft products toward up-market products which sold at higher prices. Good design combined with the cost advantage from efficient production-line manufacturing was what would give added value to the "new" products.

Creating a design structure required establishing a new profession in the country of professionally trained designers aware of forms, shapes, but also of the ergonomic functions that relate shapes to human scale. They had to be aware of skills and the manufacturing process to efficiently and economically produce their designs.

The designs were to be sold on the global market. They had to be aware of market preferences, tastes and trends, and pricing in the countries where they aimed to sell their products. Also, they had to present their designs in displays that caught the eye of jaded buyers roaming the vast exhibition halls all over the world during seasonal product exhibitions.

Most important, the designers had to be aware they were not creating one-of-a-kind works of art. That was for the artists.

The industrial designer's object must be functional, of high commercial appeal, and manufactured in series. It had to look global, not local.

Role of craft

Although the designer normally would not reproduce traditional Philippine craft or, much less, make souvenir-type versions of it, craft plays a pivotal role in product design.

The handmade component still widely available in the Philippines is no longer available in the industrialized societies that compose the global export market. To set themselves apart, Philippine products were designed fusing hand craftsmanship with the efficiency of production-line manufacturing.

Bamboo and rattan are pressure-treated before being mechanically stripped, then handed over to weaver-craftsmen who employ traditional techniques to weave amazingly modern, nontraditional baskets.

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Traditional *ikat* dyeing sometimes patterns the modern textile, and, for convenience, colorfast chemical dyes replace the old vegetable dyes.

Wood is dried in kilns, fed into machines that rough-cut it into components. These were later hand-carved or combined with hand-woven natural materials. The assembled furniture was then hand-finished.

In design adaptation there is a continuum: Old inspires the new, hand and machine alternate in production.

Our handcrafted tradition gives Philippine export products identity, special warmth and tactile human quality. The finished product bears the imprint of, but does not copy, Philippine traditional craft. Tradition is updated by adaptation.

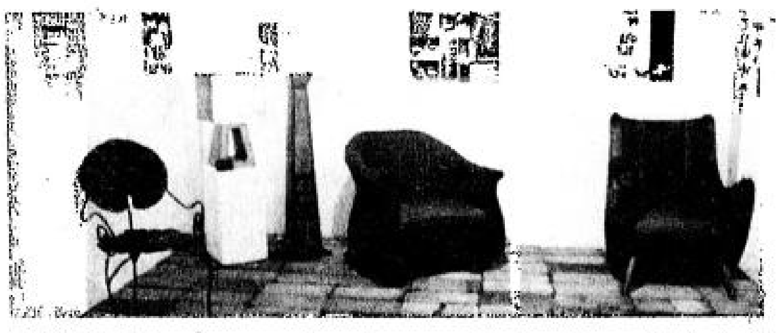
The finished object should achieve an international look that many times is no longer identifiable as Philippine. The designed object is identifiable as a first-rate global product that competes on an equal market footing with other products of the same type.

Product adaptation is a process that might combine global design with tradition. Many times tradition is the basis of product adaptation, the springboard for discovering shapes and forms, learning handcrafting techniques, manipulating natural materials, and marveling at the amazing level of Philippine craftsmanship.

'Milan of Asia'

Now three decades after its birth, Design Center has successfully produced a range of high-quality products of sophisticated design which is global in appearance but decidedly Philippine in craftsmanship. These products have elevated the Philippines in export trade circles, so that the country is sometimes known as the "Milan of Asia," a salute to our creativity.

Three decades after Design Center launched the industrial-design profession in the Philippines, its practitioners have become an important influence across the nation.



PHILIPPINE industrial designers update traditional local forms and materials into products of global quality.

SURPRISING versatility of fabrics handwoven from natural materials

Over the years, Design Center Philippines matured, changed its name to Product Design and Design Center of the Philippines (PDDCP), and now collaborates with Citem for market promotions for its designs.

The consistently high quality of Philippine design today seen in export showrooms and evident (although unnoticed) in consumer products of local manufacture are work of professional industrial designers, proof that PDDCP achieved its original mandate of improving Philippine products through good design and enhancing its quality.

PDDCP has changed the image of Philippine exports, brought the industry to a higher plane, while improving the level of skill and employment in the local work force.

It has proven that the creative industries are a major influence in nation-building.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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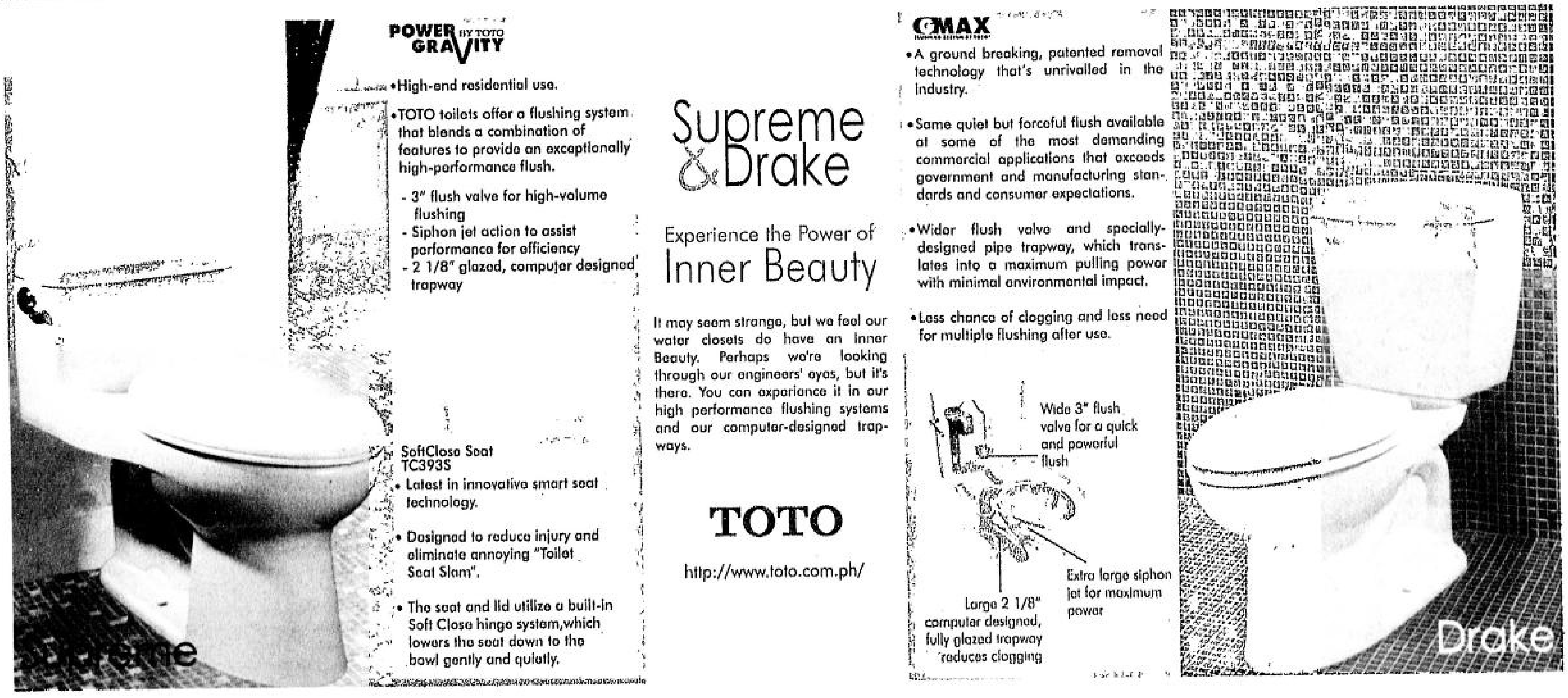

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Longest-living Pinoy Benedictine marks milestone

By Aloysius A. Maranan, OSB
Contributor

REV. FR. SILVESTRE H. LACSON, OSB, truly a man of prayer and work, celebrates his 80th birthday today. He is the only Filipino priest in history who has lived as a Benedictine for 57 years.

The psalmist says our average life span is 70 years, or 80 for those who are strong. But there are those who believe that we could make it even 90 or 100 if we have a good prayer life and a happy acceptance of aging and God's abounding love for us. Are these the "secrets" of Father Lacson so that he seems to have grown old gracefully with a big smile on his face?

On various occasions, he has intimated that he is very happy being a Benedictine priest and monk. If people ask him what his secret is, he is quick to say that there is no secret. He simply continues to live a happy, healthy, humble and holy life.

As a Benedictine priest, Father Lacson has been blessed by God with many people to love and serve, meaningful ministerial works to do, and a lot of good things to hope for.

If ever joy and gladness beat in his heart, they are rooted in the fact that he has loved without condition, he has given without counting the cost, and he has worked for the good of all.

Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when He talked about a hundredfold return to those who follow Him. His happiness today is a gift, and not a reward for anything he has humbly done.

Father Lacson was born on March 6, 1926, in Angeles, Pampanga. He is the third among seven children of Tomas Lacson and Avelina Henson. When he was baptized at Santo Rosario Church in Angeles, he was given the name Adriano.

When he entered the Order of St. Benedict, he was given the name Silvestre. Benedictines adopt a religious name as a sign of conversion to monastic life.

In 1941, when Adriano was 15, war broke out in the Philippines. Since seminaries had to close, his entry to the priesthood was postponed. He wondered if he ever would become a priest. He kept his faith and prayed hard to the Blessed Virgin Mary that he would be a priest.

On July 31, 1945, at age 19, he entered San Jose Seminary under the Jesuits on Sta. Ana Street, Manila. Because he was inclined to prayers in the setting of community life, he applied with the Benedictines.

FATHER Silvestre Lacson: The secret could be prayer, acceptance and love.

On May 19, 1949, he took his monastic profession of obedience, stability and conversion of life at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat on Mendiola, Manila. He studied the Holy Rule of St. Benedict and the Scriptures and practically lived the discipline of monastic life.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Rufino Cardinal Santos at the Abbey Church on March 22, 1954.

He finished his philosophy and theology courses with very high honors. He took further studies such as Licentiate in Theology and Master of Arts in English Literature at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, in 1957.

Father Lacson has visited various Benedictine monasteries and established fraternal linkages with monks of other congregations worldwide.

Educator

One of his challenging tasks was as prior-administrator of the Benedictine Abbey from 1972-1979. It was a rough and tough period of martial law. Where religious and lay leaders were suspected as subversives, Father Lacson held the Benedictine community together like a good shepherd.

In 1979, when no one was willing to take on the challenge, Father Lacson agreed to become the concurrent director of the then Benedictine Abbey School in Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City.

It was no ordinary responsibility. And with the grace of God, he faithfully led his flock, cared for them and served them well.

In 1983, he became rector of San Beda College, Manila. Since 1992, he has been intermittently the local superior of the Benedictine community in Alabang.

The 57 years of Father Lacson as a Benedictine monk, more than as shepherd of Benedictine communities in Manila and Alabang and as steward of San Beda College in Manila and Alabang, has shown that Father Lacson at heart is a humble and amiable man, a self-effacing and unassuming friend, a forgiving and loving father who has brought Jesus to the hearts of many people.

He is an exemplary monk whose love of God and people, discipline and prayer life are virtues that have influenced the lives of the younger generation of priests and lay alike.

Certainly, when he was born 80 years ago, the angels danced in heaven. Happy birthday to our dear Father Lacson!

The author is also a Benedictine priest who is finishing his Licentiate in Canon Law at the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila.

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THE MANDY NAVASERO SUMMER Photoworkshop is on its 21st year.

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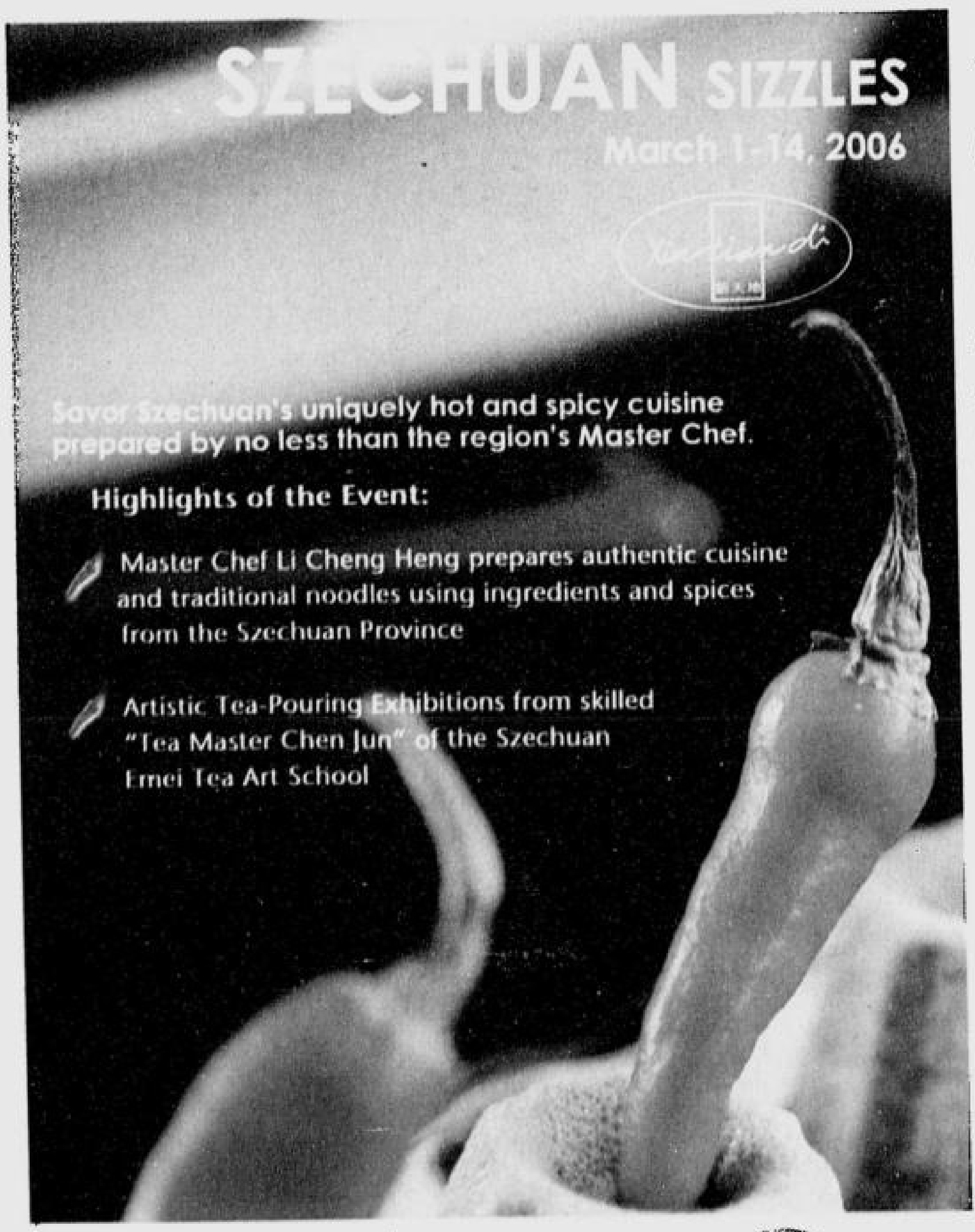
Lectures are held every Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Classes will start officially on April 8 and run until May 27. Students should have their own 35-mm cameras with interchangeable lens, preferably 105 mm, 20 mm or 28 mm, or digital cameras with similar zoom-lens attachments.

A Batanes Photo Safari is set for April 12-15 jointly with Wally Trinidad of Fiesta Tours.

Registration is ongoing in Mandy Navasero PhotoPRo Studio, Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.), Bel-Air II Village, Makati City. Call 8991767 or 8963208 or e-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph

Navasero obtained her BA in Photography, major in Illustration and Advertising, at Brooks Institute of Photographic Arts and Sciences in Santa Barbara, California.

PARTICIPANTS of the Mandy Navasero Coron Photo Safari last summer



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Perfect wedding of the figurative and the abstract

By Constantino C. Tejero

IN EGHAI ROXAS' QUASI-abstract world, unidentified objects float in space. We'd probably never know why they're there except for their virtuoso effect or as bravura element.

They're either a perfect orb, which could be a balloon, a ball, the sun, the moon, a planet, as in "Rhapsody" and "Landscape"—or a rectangular figure, which could be a log or a bone, as in "Levitation" and "Unified Elements." Or a combination of both, as in "Alternative Dimension." And they're set in visual space that could be a landscape, a seascape, or outer space.

Roxas' technique consists of layering of various textures and embellishing with gestural strokes. The rectangular shape is but a strip of impasto painted with shadow underneath, while the orb is delicately composed with highlight.

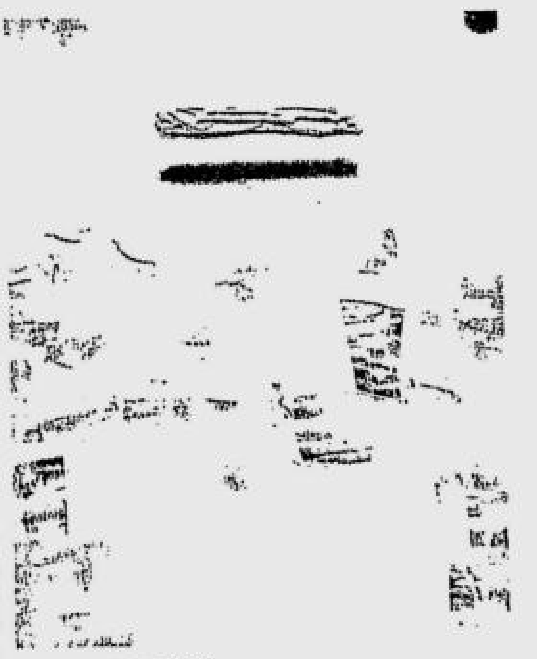
Here is the perfect marriage of the representational and the nonrepresentational in art—because these free-floating forms are really figurative (they even have shadows), and the pictorial field obviously is abstracted. The odd yet apt pairing results in what looks like Surrealism that could also be Zen.

This convergence of polarities springs naturally from Roxas' artistic evolution. As a youth in the 1970s he had immersed himself in the clean figuration of Social Realism, and as a student in the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts he had as mentors such prominent abstractionists as José Joya, Alfredo Liongoren (early exponent of figurative-abstract blend), Nestor Vinluan, Constancio Bernardo (abstraction pioneer).

Roxas' signature floating element and textured abstraction are again showcased in a show that has taken landscape as subject and theme—"Kassel," 10 large and 37 small pieces in acrylic on canvas, until March 16 in Galerie Astra, 2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Bel-Air II, Makati City.

Says the exhibition note: "This show is the result of the artist's impressions, aesthetic moods and meditations on the subject of his most recent European sojourn to the small central German city of Kassel. Known among artists as the venue of the quadrennial art event Documenta, it is an otherwise quiet university town surrounded by farmlands and a landscape famous for its greenery."

Roxas was then holding a series of exhibits in Vienna and Essen, from October to November last year. He says his visit to Kassel, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of Documenta, marked a shift in his view of modern art and "how contemporary Philippine art could significantly gain by meditating on and combining with Western art in unexpected ways."


"ALONE"

Thus, in this exhibit, we are regaled with a seamless blending of Western nonobjective abstraction and Filipino painterly tradition, plus the gestural strokes of Chinese calligraphy and the minimalism of Zen.

Witness the hyperrealist rendition of floating objects against total abstraction in such pieces as "Alone," "Cultural Differences," "Element of Broken Dreams." Or the calligraphic strokes à la Cy Twombly in "Endless Sojourn."

The pieces are chiefly monochromatic, in black and white, reminding us that, when the artist visited, the green landscape of Kassel had vanished and winter was creeping in. This is celebrated in "Endless Sojourn," like a flurry of snow, and in "Winter in Kassel," like a pool of mud.

Roxas received the Jurors' Choice at the 1994 Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards, and won for nonrepresentational painting at the 1997 Art Association of the Philippines competition. A fine specimen of a painterly abstractionist.

LIFESTYLE

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"WE'RE STILL HOT!" Clockwise from top left: Niña Romualdez, Pinky Marquez, Lyn Sherman and Shamaine Centenera

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Older women reinvent themselves

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE FOUR WOMEN CHARacters are, as the euphemism goes, women of a certain age (*les femmes d'un certain age*), or in their "second adulthood."

That means they are in their 50s, in the post-menopausal stage, no longer spring chicks but not that old either, and ready to reinvent themselves, to go into new projects, and to have new experiences with their husbands, lovers or what have you.

Thus, the sex comedy-musical "We're Still Hot!" by JJ McColl, an off-Broadway play, with the melodies synthesized and arranged by Rueben Gurr. The Philippine production was announced at a recent press conference at the Prince of Jaipur Restaurant in The Fort, Taguig City.

And since the topic was primarily sex that day, a resource person, Dr. Eileen Manalo, an OB-gynecologist and infertility specialist of the Philippine General Hospital, stole the thunder from the producers and the performers present.

"I don't want to be misquoted," she said. "I'm a Catholic, and a member of Couples for Christ." But she spoke forthrightly, and gamely answered questions about sex.

One singer asked if oral sex was bad for the throat. "No," Manalo replied.

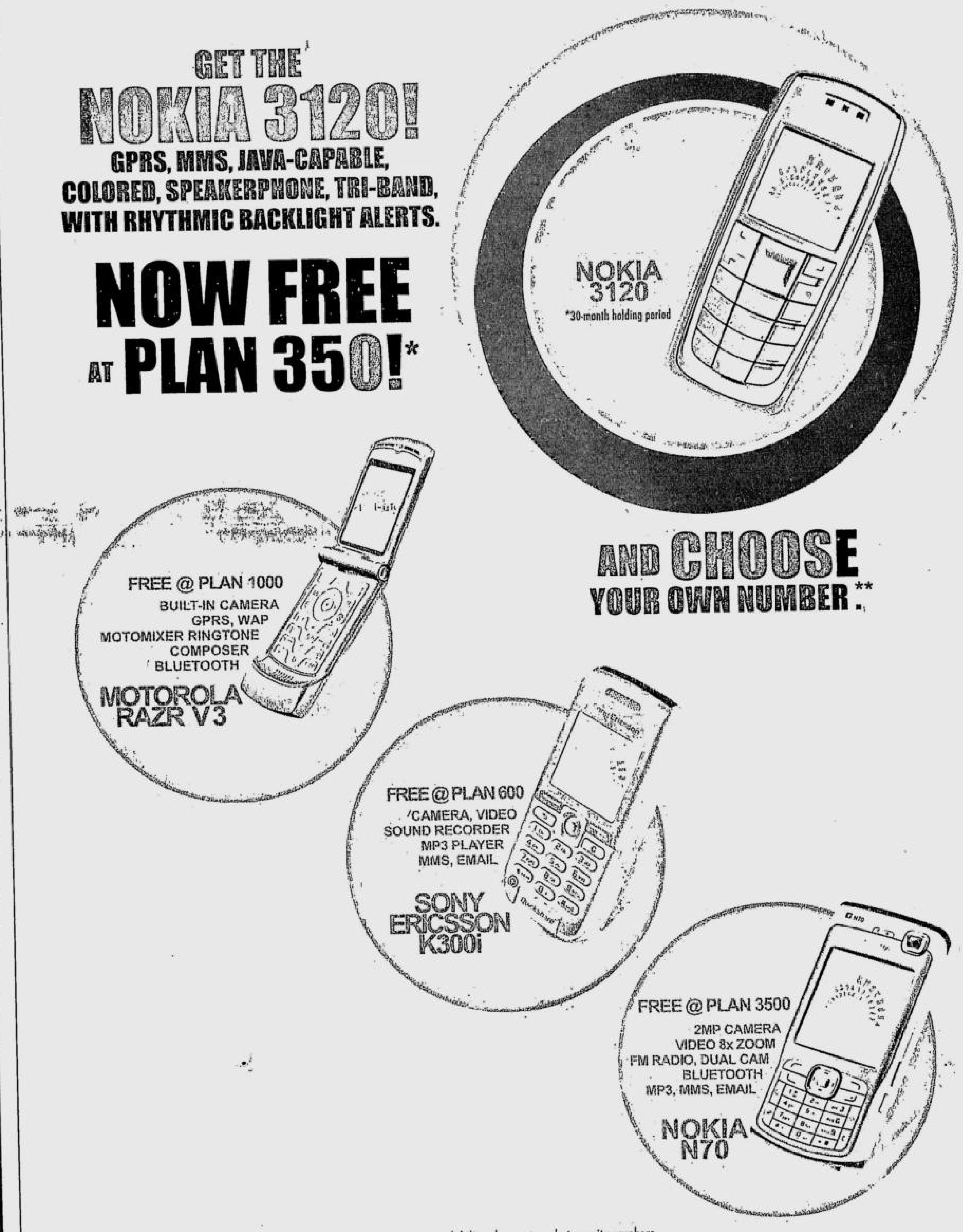
"*Ay, salamat* (Thank you for that)," the singer intoned. I think she was… but I couldn't be sure because her back was turned to me.

"Romance is a better aphrodisiac," the physician observed. "A red rose from your husband is a better aphrodisiac than a sex video. [Also] if you don't use it [your sex], you'll lose it. The vagina will collapse."

In answer to a question on whether middle-aged men can keep up with women sexually,

OLDER/ D2

PINKY Marquez plays Cynthia Sawyer, the "typical housewife."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Pleasant but disposable

By Gibbs Cadiz

THERE ARE QUITE a few descriptives that come to mind upon watching "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," Rep's latest offering after the dreary, warmed-over sitcom play that was "Nobody's Perfect."

"Perfectly pleasant" is one of them. "Perfectly disposable" is another.

"Nobody's Perfect" and "I Love You, You're Perfect..." represent Rep's return to its low-key, workaday business model after the glorious peak of "Man of La Mancha" last year.

Given the economics of the trade and the paucity of truly compelling material every time, perhaps that's understandable. Rep can't afford one showy production after another, so it has to settle for season fillers here and there.

With har-har lines like "Tell me I didn't walk in on an episode of the 'X-Files!'" and "I'd rather have open-heart surgery done by an orangutan on speed!," "Nobody's Perfect" fit the bill quite snugly. The new production, rest assured, is an improvement on that snoozer, but not by much.

Junk food

As semaphored by its cutesy title, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," directed by Michael Williams, is the theatrical equivalent of junk food—filling but forgettable.

The filling sensation comes largely from the customary Rep-imprinted professionalism that "I Love You's" cast of four brings to their roles. As various pairs of lovers who go through the many complications of dating, engagement and eventual marriage, Robbie Guevara, Liesl Batucan, Nic Manahan and Cathy Azanza tear into their parts with lip-smackin' gusto.

That kind of verve has a validating benefit: It gives this material more respectability than is due it.

"I Love You's" music, by Jimmy Roberts, reworks some familiar and not-so-familiar pop tunes to create something more along the lines of a revue than a full-blown musical. Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire" is quoted, as is Helen Reddy's "I Am Woman."

In Act 2, Azanza sings (beautifully) a country-tinged bromide called "Always a Bridesmaid," and it's of a piece with any twangy, bittersweet ditty Loretta Lynn would be proud of.

Still, there is something inherently suspicious about musical larceny like this, lighthearted though it may be. More than laziness, it signals a slick willingness on the songwriter's part to bank on easy nostalgia for audience approval of his work.

"I Love You's" status as one of the longest-running Off-Broadway musicals must rest not only on its economical staging (four actors, a piano and a violin), but also on its appeal as a melodically cozy after-dinner diversion.

Jeanie Linders' "Menopause, The Musical," at least, had an excuse. It simply recast baby-boomer chart classics because its target audience was of that generation, and, frankly, because singing a Broadway power ballad about menopause must have sounded frightening.

Good songs

"I Love You's" time frame is more indeterminate, swinging from retro milieus (that's what all those outlandish wigs on Guevara and Batucan suggest, anyway) to contemporary set pieces. A few good songs punctuate this uneven quilt, allowing each performer a chance to rise above the coy proceedings.

There's Azanza's "Bridesmaid" moment, Manahan's touching "Shouldn't I Be Less in Love with You?," Guevara's meltdown from strutting macho to sniveling sophead while watching a chick flick with his girlfriend ("Tear Jerk").

It's Batucan who extracts a brief flash of brilliance from the show's variety-sketch format. In "The Very First Dating Video of Rose Ritz," a nonmusical number, she sits before a handycam, describing herself for a prospective date (her blown-up video image is projected on the stage).

Each small detail she recounts pinballs into something revelatory of her failed relationships. By the end of this breakdown, the Rose Ritz captured in close-up is an altogether different person—and Batucan has belied the notion that stage actors don't do well in front of the camera.

Uh-oh. Bad news for "I Love You." What does it say about a musical when its most stirring moment is a monologue?

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" runs until March 12 at Rep's Globe Theater, OnStage, Greenbelt 1. Call 8870710 or 8919999.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

NIC MANAHAN, Cathy Azanza, Robbie Guevara and Liesl Batucan in Repertory Philippines' "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"

Alexandru Tomescu at Philamlife March 26

ROMANIAN VIOLIN SUPERstar Alexandru Tomescu is all set for a return engagement at the Philamlife Theater on March 26 with pianist Mary Anne Espina.

Tomescu, winner of the Grand Prix Yehudi Menuhim Prize of the Margaret Long-Jacques Thibaud Competition in Paris and a gold medalist in the Paganini International Violin Competition in Italy, got a rousing standing ovation when he performed Lalo's Symphonie Espagnol with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra last year.

"I am very excited to perform in Manila again," said Tomescu, who recently sat on the jury of another violin competition in his native Romania.

Described by French critics as "one of the great violinists of this moment," and by the German press as "a violin superstar," Tomescu will also do outreach concerts in the Philippine countryside.

Tomescu's program includes Leclair's Sonata in D, Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata, Sarasate's "Carmen" Fantasy, Tchaikovsky's Valse Scherzo, Wieniawski's A Major Polonaise and Paganini's "Dance of the Witches."

The concert is presented by Music News and Philippine American Life Insurance Company.

Tomescu will perform at the Pasig Music Festival recital series at the Pasig Museum on March 28.

Call 9007023 or 0910-8851136.

VIOLIN superstar Tomescu

UP writing workshop fellows bared

LIKHAAN: THE UP INSTITUTE OF CREATIVE Writing (ICW) has selected 12 fellows to the 45th UP National Writers Workshop to be held at Pines View Hotel, Baguio City, April 1-8.

The fellows are: fiction in English, Bernice C. Roldan; fiction in Filipino, Liza Magtoto, Jimmuel C. Naval, Zosimo E. Quibilan Jr.; poetry in English, Raymond John A. de Borja, Joel M. Toledo, and Lourd Ernest H. de Veyra; poetry in Filipino, Ariel Dim Borlongan and Paolo M. Manalo; drama, Allan B. Lopez; and creative nonfiction in English, Mario I. Miclat and Virginia M. Villanueva.

The workshop, one of the major annual projects and the most important outreach program of the ICW, will have a new format this year.

Former workshop fellows were allowed to apply. Fellows will be expected to make a presentation of their works-in-progress and discuss a problem related to the work during the workshop.

The teaching staff is composed of ICW director Vim D. Nadera, UP vice president for public affairs Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo (also the workshop director), university professor emeritus Gémino H. Abad, National Artist and dean Virgilio S. Almario, professor emeritus Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio, Jose Y. Dalisay Jr., J. Neil C. Garcia, professor emeritus Bienvenido Lumbera, Charlson L. Ong, Jun Cruz Reyes, Joi Barrios, Lilia Quindoza Santiago, UP Mindanao chancellor Ricardo M. de Ungria, and Rene O. Villanueva.

The fellows are advised to call the UP ICW at 9221830 or call/SMS Tony Serrano at 0918- 5122314 to confirm their attendance.

New UP Press titles

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES Press recently released 14 new titles as its initial offering for 2006. The event was billed "Paglulunsad 2006: Unang Yugto" and was held at Balay Kalinaw in UP Diliman.

New scholarly titles include "A Dark Tinge to the World: Selected Essays (1987-2005)," by Soledad S. Reyes; "Gabay sa Fildwurk," by Consuelo Joaquin-Paz; "Gender, Information Technology, and Health," by Jinky Leilanie del Prado-Lu; "Roots of the Filipino Nation, Volume 1," by O.D. Corpuz; "The Star-Entangled Banner: One Hundred Years of America in the Philippines," by Sharon Delmendo; and "Toward a People's Literature: Essays in the Dialectics of Praxis and Contradiction in Philippine Writing," by E. San Juan.

New literary titles include "A Literary Journey with Gilda Cordero-Fernando," by Sylvia Mendez Ventura; "Bedtime Stories: Mga Dula sa Relasyong Sexual," by Rene O. Villanueva; "Dark Hours," by Conchitina Cruz; "Jungle Planet and Other Stories," by Lakambini Sitoy; "Kuwadro Numero Uno: Mga Tula," by Benilda S. Santos, "Selected Stories," by Jose Y. Dalisay Jr.; "The Lovely Bienvenido N. Santos," by Isagani R. Cruz; and "The Road I Traveled," by Gloria T. Aragon.

TOY
JUNGLE PLANET
and Other Stories

Press director Ma. Luisa Camagay welcomed the guests, including UP vice president for academic affairs Amy Guevarra and UP vice president for public affairs Cristina Hidalgo.

The books are available at the UP Press Bookstores in UP Diliman, Baguio, Iloilo and Davao; and at Aeon Books on Katipunan, Popular Bookstore on T. Morato, Solidaridad, PowerBooks, National Book Store, and Fully Booked.

New releases from Ateneo

THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIversity Press has released new titles.

"To Love and to Suffer: The Development of the Religious Congregations for Women in the Spanish Philippines, 1565-1898," by Luciano Santiago, narrates the collective story of the courageous *beatas* who battled the odds to establish their congregations in the early years and sustain their efforts through the generations.

"The Making of the Igorot," by Gerard Finin, examines how and why American colonial rule transformed social and spatial relations throughout the Cordillera, creating a distinctive pan-Cordilleran consciousness.

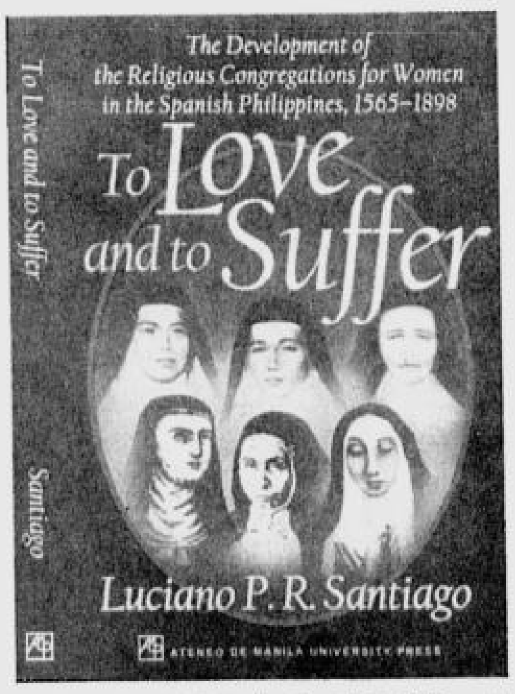
It analyzes the ways in which the establishment of the Mountain Province in the early 1900s and the imposition of direct American rule served to discourage contact between highlanders and lowlanders, while reinforcing notions of highlander connectedness. The author also looks at the central role of Baguio in the formation of a robust Igorot identity.

Fifty years after the end of his term as superior of the Jesuits, the memoirs of Fr. John Hurley, S.J., are annotated by historian Fr. José Arcilla, S.J., and published as "John F. Hurley, S.J, Wartime Superior (1941-1945) in the Philippines."

In this book, Father Hurley shares his experiences from the first days of World War II until the end of the hostilities. He saw and endured the pain brought by war, but lived through it optimistically, and wrote about it vividly and wittily.

In "Authentic Though Not Exotic, Essays on Filipino Identity," Fernando Zialcita addresses the persistent unease of many Filipinos as to the "authenticity" of their identity, and suggests that through a dialectical process the encounter between the Western and the indigenous has generated a broader sense of community that has transcended the kin.

All books are available at the Ateneo Press (4265984; 4266001 locals 4610/4613; unipress@admu.edu.ph) and bookstores nationwide.


To Love and to Suffer
Santiago
The Development of the Religious Congregations for Women in the Spanish Philippines, 1565–1898
To Love and to Suffer
Luciano P. R. Santiago
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Self-help books from New Day

NEW DAY PUBLISHERS HAS released "365 Ways to Make the Most of Your Marriage" by Juliet Janvrin and Lucy Selleck, a bestseller in the United Kingdom.

The 192-page book offers a daily dose of wise and witty words to provide guidance and inspiration for a lifetime of marriage.

Janvrin is author of the bestselling "365 Ways to Survive as a Parent" (Lion Publishing, 2000), while Selleck has been a couple's counselor for 10 years and has worked with the press and television on relationship issues.

New Day has also released easy-to-read illustrated self-help books such as "The Thing About the Office," "The Thing About Stress" and "The Thing About Calories," all by Liz Babbs.

"The Thing About the Office" is an essential read for those who dream of a stress-free workplace.

"The Thing About Calories" gives tips on how to balance healthy living and the pressure to diet with love for food.

Meanwhile, American author John Byrne offers practical but hilarious pointers for school and work in his latest two titles, "Survival Tips for Students" and "Survival Tips at Work."

Byrne is a best-selling cartoonist and stand-up comedian.

Call 9275982 or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph

Older women reinvent themselves

From page D1

Manalo noted: "Fact is, women are hot but men are taking medicines which debilitate them... Men die earlier of heart disease."

She added, "We are the stronger sex because we have to bear the children of the world."

Manalo quoted from a study that showed 29 percent of women have sex five times a week. "It's a French study," she hastened to add.

Oh, yes, we were talking about the play. It stars Pinky Marquez, Shamaine Centenera, Lyn Sherman and Niña Romualdez. They play school chums who are reunited after 35 years, and as they internet again, their stories unfold through song and dance. They unburden themselves to one another.

One feels life has passed her by, another is a single mother. A third longs for life, a fourth is struggling financially. And so on. There's a lot of comedy, but pathos, too.

An unseen male character turns to be a link among the four, and he is a heel. Aha, is this a sexist play in reverse?

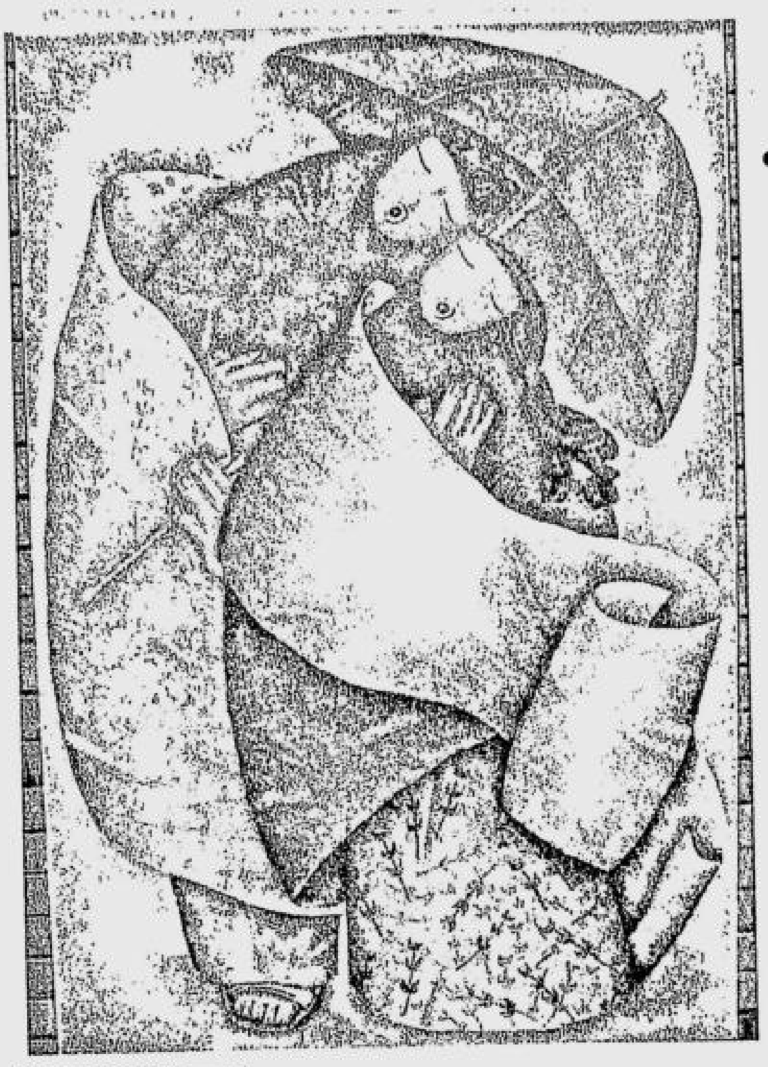
The play is produced by Bahaghari Productions, and its four officers are also women of a certain age: Carmita Francisco, Margie Moran Floirendo, Maan Hontiveros, and Romualdez (also one of the performers).

"We're Still Hot! The Musical" opens on March 17 at the new Teatrino, Greenhills, San Juan, and will run for four weekends until April 8.

LYN SHERMAN plays Kate Phillips, single mother of a 30-year-old son.

THE MCO FOUNDATION and Equitable PCI Bank will present 8-year-old pianist, Hannah Frances Hua on March 18, 4 p.m., at Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue, Makati City. She is under the tutelage of Cecile Basilio-Roxas and has performed in several piano recitals and workshops. She is a Grade 2 student at the International School Manila and is the daughter of Yun Wang and Jingdong Hua. Call 8407000 loc. 2630.

Jack Salud's pointillist vigor



"A JOYFUL Whisper"

WISTFUL, TRANQUIL, WARM, intimate, animated, nostalgic, subtle, simple, lyrical—these come to the fore as one steps back to savor Jack Salud's intricately executed works.

Every square inch of Salud's artwork contains 1,060 dots—five graded layers of pure colored minute dots moving from light to dark hues. This brings it to a total of 1,628,160 dots for every 4 ft x 2.5 ft canvas which is currently the minimum size of his artworks. It is a test of one's reflexes to mark a perfect dot if we are to consider the resiliency of a #2 sable brush and the consistency of thinned acrylic paint.

Despite filling every millimeter of canvas space everyday for almost a decade now, Salud says, "Witnessing this avalanche of multicolored dots gradually transform itself into an image of serenity and joy never cease to amaze me."

He developed the pointillist style naturally in the course of his evolution from a watercolorist with a fascination with the rough, granular texture of pottery.

In his 19th one-man exhibit titled "Tranquility in a Multitude of Dots," Salud interprets tranquility and silence on six large-scale canvases. The collection features women in peaceful solitude while leisurely admiring the intricate beauty of various flowers. It also features Saluds various interpretation of mother and child all rendered in "Pointillism."

Salud opened his first solo in 1997 at the Ayala Museum, which had given him the prestigious commission to design the museum's Christmas cards.

In 1999, he opened his first international solo exhibit in Roppongi, Tokyo, through the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Salud is a resident artist of Gallery 139 owned and managed by Pinky Roxas.

In 2005, Salud was commissioned by the Philippine Daily Inquirer to be one of the 20 Filipino artists to paint the life-size *guyito* sculptures for PDI's 20th anniversary.

He was also one of the 30 Filipino artists who contributed their interpretations of the Philippine Madonna, which won in the anti-tuberculosis stamp design contest of the Union Internationale, Contre La Tuberculose Es Les Maladies Respiratoires held in Paris, France.

"Tranquility in a Multitude of Dots" runs from March 10-25, at Gallery 139, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center. Call 7289724 or e-mail jcsalud@pldtdsl.net

JACK Salud

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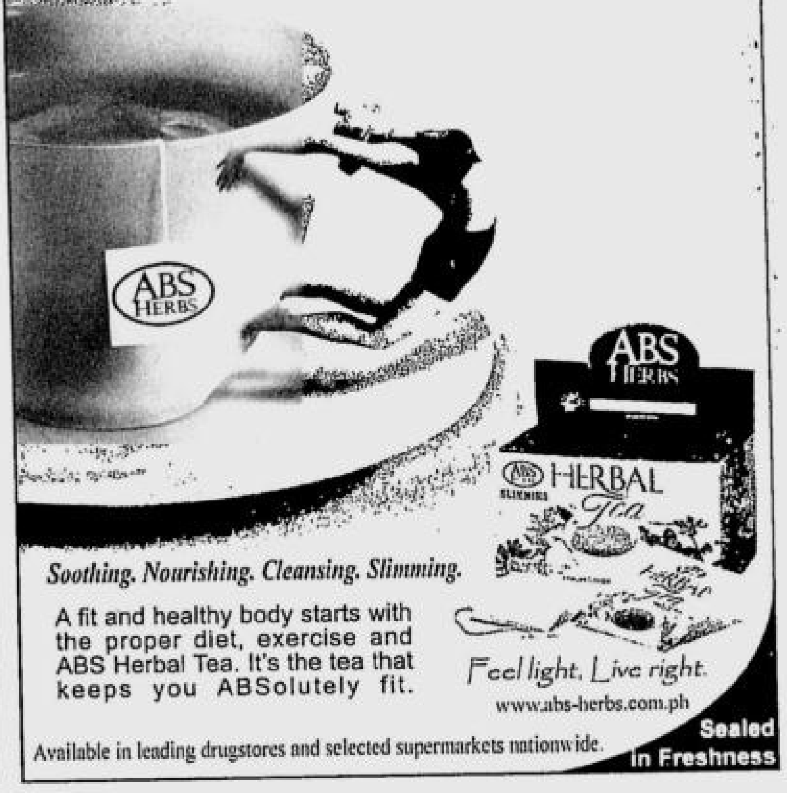

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Cebu City
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Holiday Inn Clark
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June 8, 2006 • 8:30am to 5:00pm

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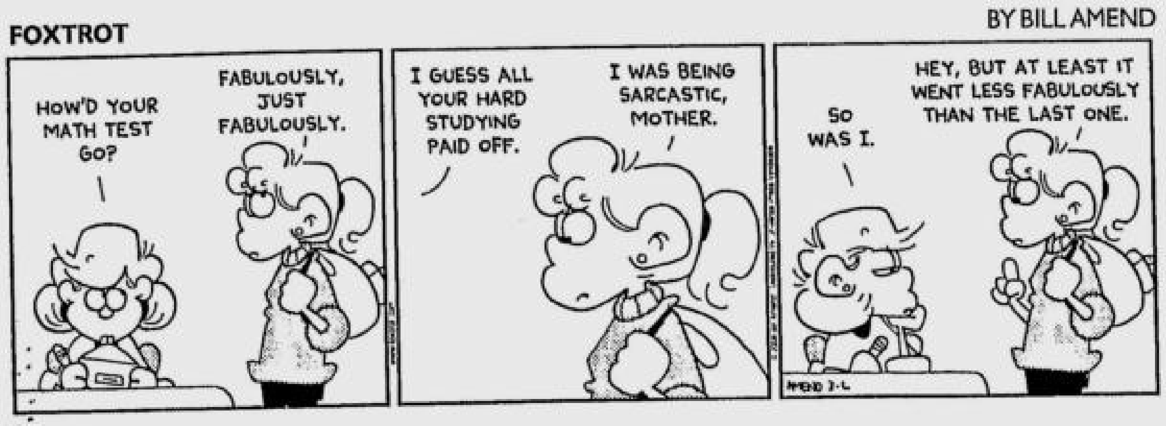
Selected participants shall be contacted prior to the event and shall be given instructions on how to forward payments. Once payment is received, the selected participants shall be given CONFIRMATION CODES. Only interested parties with confirmation codes shall be accepted into the seminars.

Due to the limited slots, PC Magazine reserves the right to pre-select the participants for the above events.

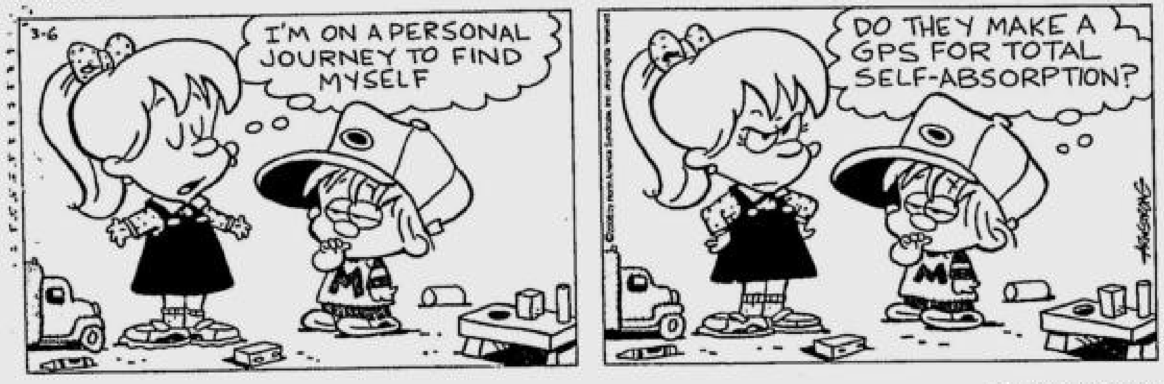
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'D YOUR MATH TEST GO?
FABULOUSLY, JUST FABULOUSLY.
I GUESS ALL YOUR HARD STUDYING PAID OFF.
I WAS BEING SARCASTIC, MOTHER.
SO WAS I.
HEY, BUT AT LEAST IT WENT LESS FABULOUSLY THAN THE LAST ONE.

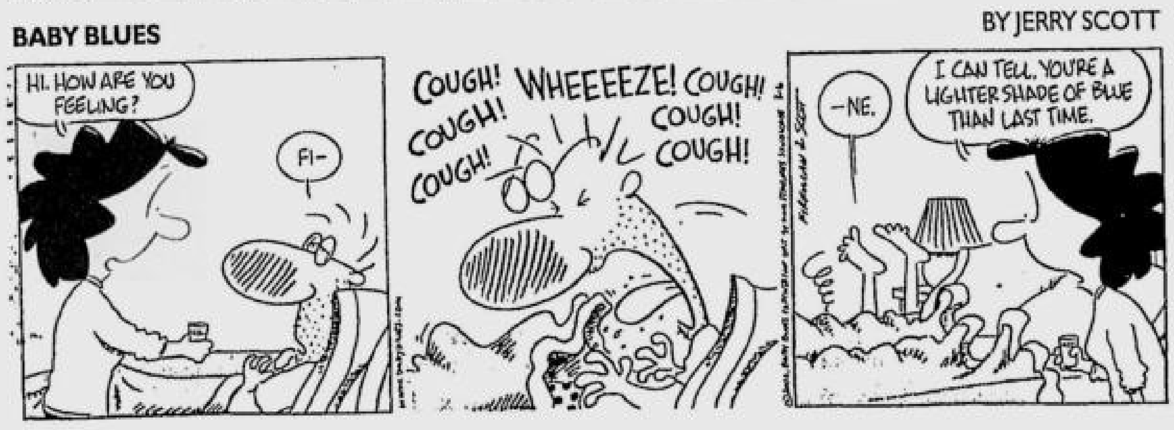
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


3-6
I'M ON A PERSONAL JOURNEY TO FIND MYSELF
DO THEY MAKE A GPS FOR TOTAL SELF-ABSORPTION?

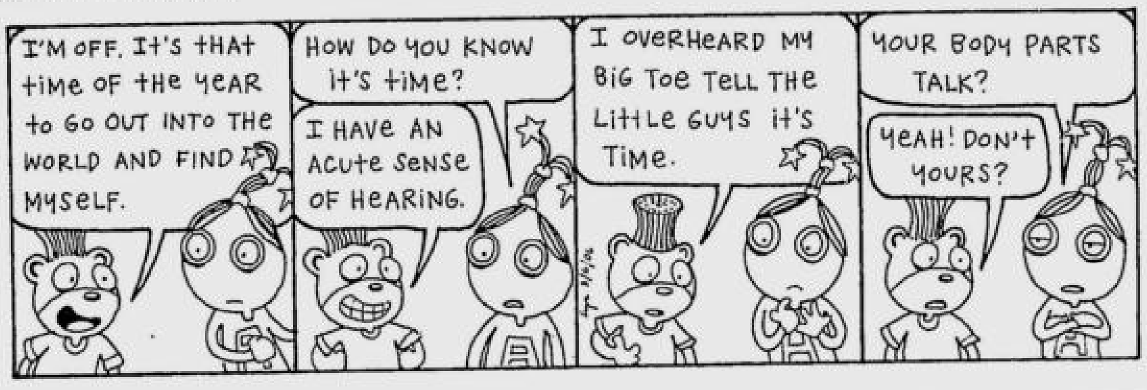
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
FI-
COUGH! COUGH! COUGH! WHEEEEZE! COUGH! COUGH! COUGH!
-NE.
I CAN TELL. YOU'RE A LIGHTER SHADE OF BLUE THAN LAST TIME.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M OFF. It'S tHAt time OF tHE YEAR to GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND FIND MYSELF.
How DO you KNOW it'S time?
I HAVE AN ACUte SenSE OF HEARING.
I OVERHEARD MY BIG TOE TELL THE Little GUYS it'S TIME.
YOUR BODY PARTS TALK?
YEAH! DON'T YOURS?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're creative and artistic. You're also kind and tenderhearted. You always aim for the highest good. You work hard at what you do because you're motivated by your ideals. Physically, you enjoy a sensuous response to life and everything around you. The year ahead might be one of the best, most fortunate years of your life! Open any door.

Birthdate of: Shaquille O'Neal, basketball player; Lorin Maazel, music maestro; Kiri Te Kanawa, soprano.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Give yourself time to do some private reading or thinking. You have a lot on your mind now; nevertheless, you need more solitude than usual.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your popularity rating is definitely strong now. Everyone wants to see your face. Financial matters concern you today. Don't do anything you don't want to do.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): With Mars in your sign now, you're energetic, assertive and strong. Today you feel this way even more so, because the Moon is in your sign as well. This tips the odds in your favor!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Time spent alone today will help you contemplate opportunities to travel. Forge ahead with plans for publishing in the media and exploring further education. You want to get more out of life.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Increased activity with others forces you to encounter values you don't necessarily support or agree with. You'll have to learn how to compromise or agree to disagree.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with others are significant today. Perhaps you have to talk to your boss or a parent. Why not test your ideas by first bouncing them off a partner or friend?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Work hard at publishing, educational, medical and legal matters now. It's also a good day to make travel plans. Your mind is very quick and active today. You can take care of a lot of details.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel saucy, playful and sexy! This is the perfect day to buy exciting underwear. (Always dress from the inside out.)

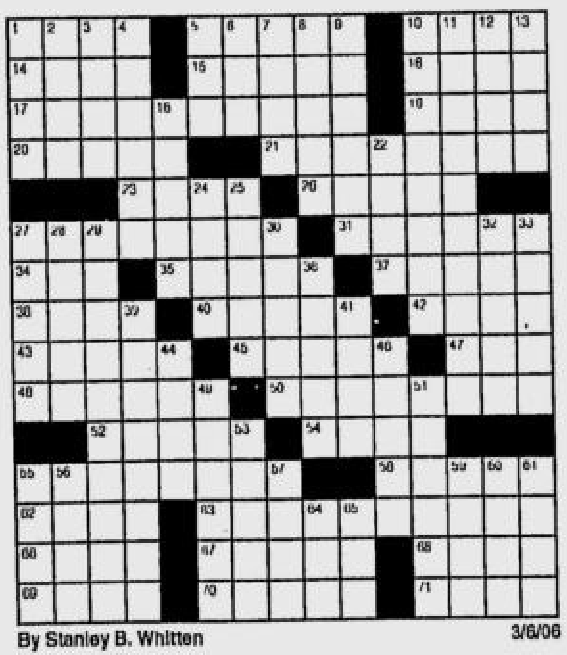
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Home, family and real estate matters continue to be your primary focus. Discussions with partners can help you sort something out today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a busy day, but you will get a lot done. Your ability to multitask and handle details is wonderful today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're thinking about your job, how you earn money and how you spend it. However, you also want to play today. (Actually, romance looks promising!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a very strong time for you. However, in the next few weeks, you feel more in touch with your spiritual side as well. This could be because you see the rewards of practicing kindness.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

3/6/06

ACROSS
1 Lamb's pen name
5 Maureen of filmdom
10 English gent
14 Tenant's mothly check
15 Drama parts
16 __ and now
17 Shute bestseller
19 HOMES element
20 Got up
21 Vendor
23 Slight
26 Page of songs
27 Fine points
31 Talked wildly
34 Tokyo, formerly
35 Hit
37 A capital of Bolivia
38 Biddies
40 John Smith, perhaps
42 Swift pace
43 Hurried
45 Subject
47 Last of a lemon?
48 Bridal party members
50 Month for elections
52 Brief quarrels
54 Curly cabbage
55 School of Buddhism
58 Vicuna's cousin
62 Cassini of fashion
63 Seashore find
66 Pineapple firm
67 Els of golf
68 Monster of myth
69 Sniggler's prey
70 Incline
71 Conflicts

DOWN
1 Cupid
2 Fasting period
3 "__ every life, a little rain..."
4 In residence
5 Sphere
6 Garden tool
7 Exclamation of regret
8 Brief summary
9 Stone-worker's block
10 Reddish-brown horse
11 Seashore sight
12 Diva's song
13 Head of a hammer
18 Cuts and splices
22 Schedule figs.
24 __ bean
25 Worked at blackjack
27 First PM of India
28 Conceptions
29 Seashore find
30 Shoot for grafting
32 Wear away
33 Hinder
36 Silky fiber
39 Quantities leaked
41 Hindu deity
44 Cart for hauling
46 String quartet member
49 Conditions of balance
51 Rich and soft
53 Speak angrily
55 Manner
56 Shaving-cream additive
57 Part of A.D.
59 Bit of pond scum
60 1965 PGA winner
61 God of war
64 Brief swim
65 Tweedle ending?

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	L	E	N	C	H	■	A	B	R	I	D	G	E	S
H	O	M	I	L	Y	■	N	O	I	S	I	E	S	T
A	V	E	N	U	E	■	D	O	M	I	N	A	T	E
P	E	R	E	N	N	I	A	L	■	S	T	R	A	P
A	L	I	■	G	A	R	N	E	T	■	Y	E	T	I
T	O	T	S	■	S	I	T	A	R	S	■	D	E	N
T	R	U	T	H	■	S	E	N	I	O	R	■	■	■
I	N	S	E	A	M	■	■	■	G	U	I	L	E	S
■	■	■	W	R	A	S	S	L	■	P	L	A	N	E
E	G	G	■	T	I	T	A	N	S	■	L	I	R	A
S	A	R	A	■	M	E	D	I	C	O	■	D	O	W
C	R	O	C	I	■	E	N	D	U	R	A	B	L	E
A	N	T	E	L	O	P	E	■	F	I	N	A	L	E
R	E	T	R	I	A	L	S	■	F	E	N	C	E	D
P	R	O	B	A	T	E	S	■	S	L	A	K	E	S

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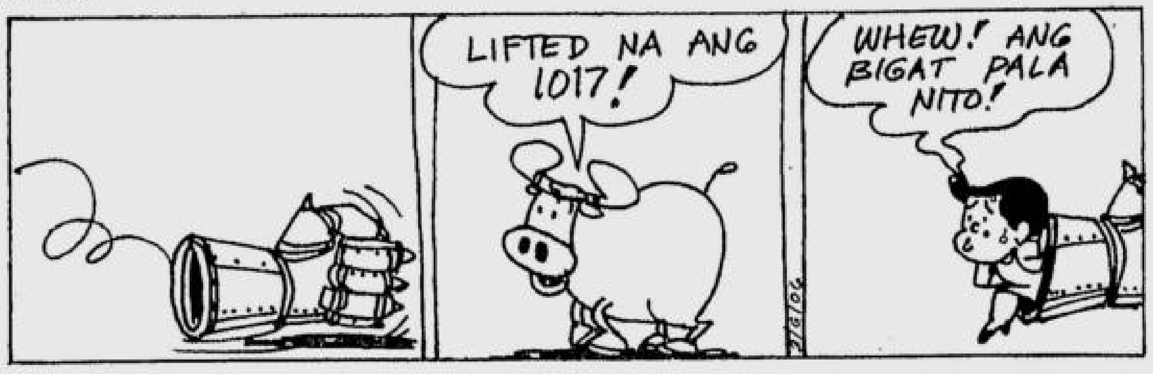
3/6/06

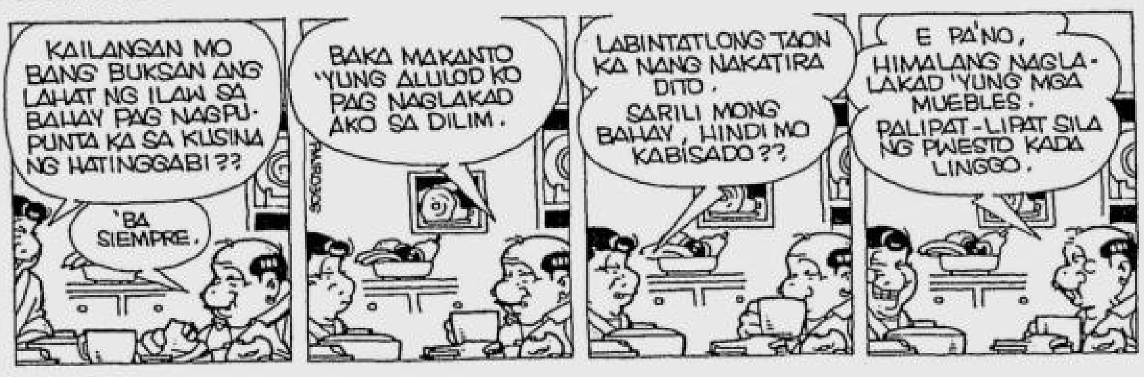
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LIFTED NA ANG 1017!
WHEW! ANG BIGAT PALA NITO!

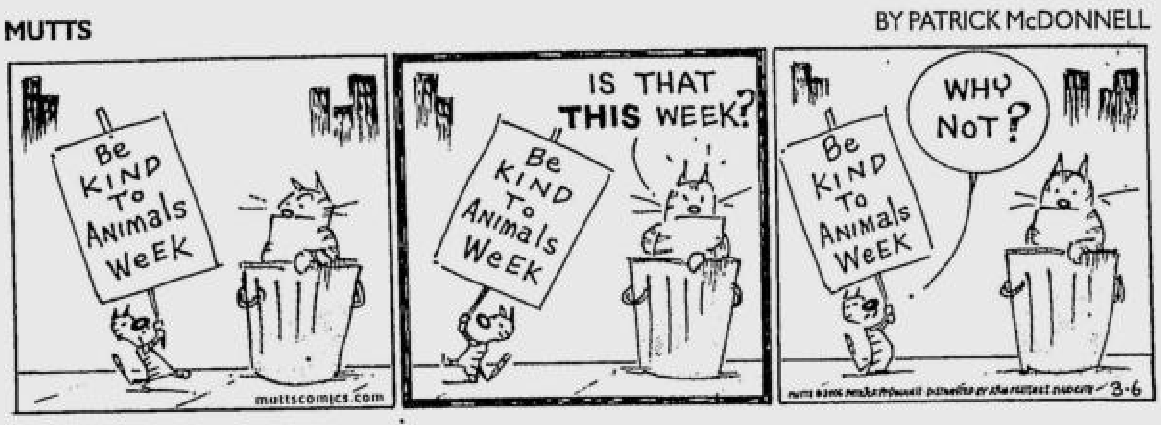
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAILANGAN MO BANG BUKSAN ANG LAHAT NG ILAW SA BAHAY PAG NAGPUPUNTA KA SA KUSINA NG HATINGGABI??
'BA SIEMPRE.
BAKA MAKANTO 'YUNG ALULOD KO PAG NAGLAKAD AKO SA DILIM.
LABINTATLONG TAON KA NANG NAKATIRA DITO. SARILI MONG BAHAY, HINDI MO KABISADO??
E PA'NO, HIMALANG NAGLALAKAD 'YUNG MGA MUEBLES. PALIPAT-LIPAT SILA NG PWESTO KADA LINGGO.

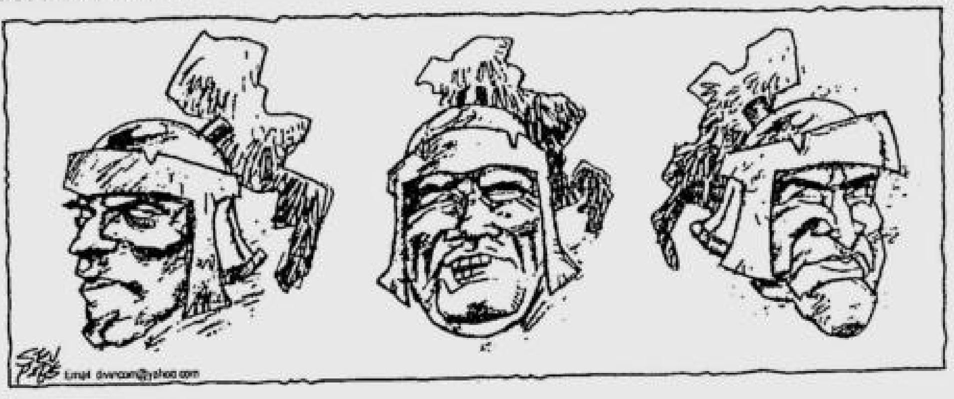
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Be KIND To Animals WeeK
IS THAT THIS WEEK?
WHY NoT?
muttscomics.com
3-6

DIVINE COMEDY

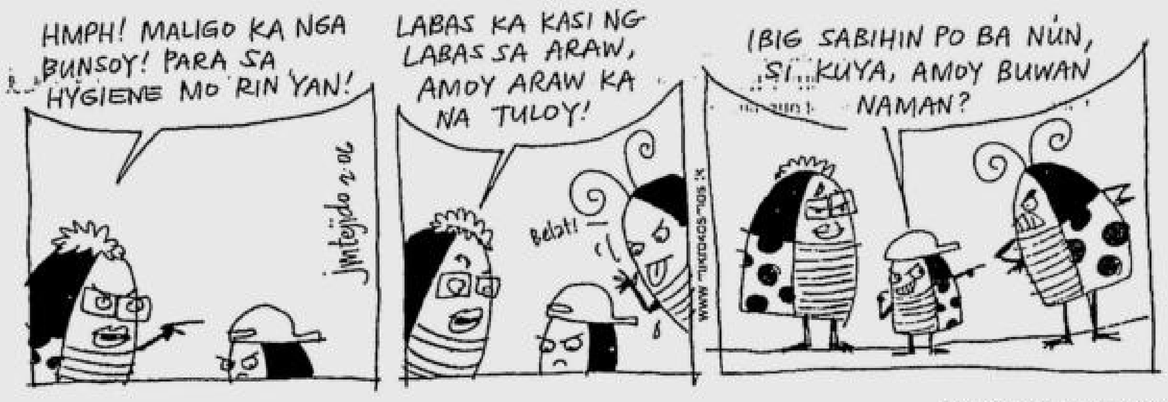
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



ITO PO ANG CARTOGRAPHIC SKETCH NG MGA SUSPEK SA PAGPATAY KAY JESUS CHRIST

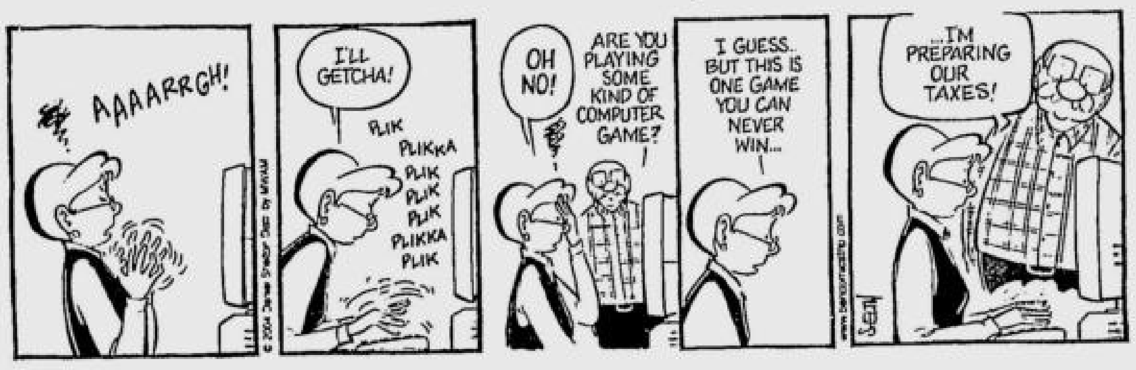
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HMPH! MALIGO KA NGA BUNSOY! PARA SA HYGIENE MO RIN YAN!
jmtejido 2.06
LABAS KA KASI NG LABAS SA ARAW, AMOY ARAW KA NA TULOY!
Belat!
IBIG SABIHIN PO BA NUN, SI KUYA, AMOY BUWAN NAMAN?

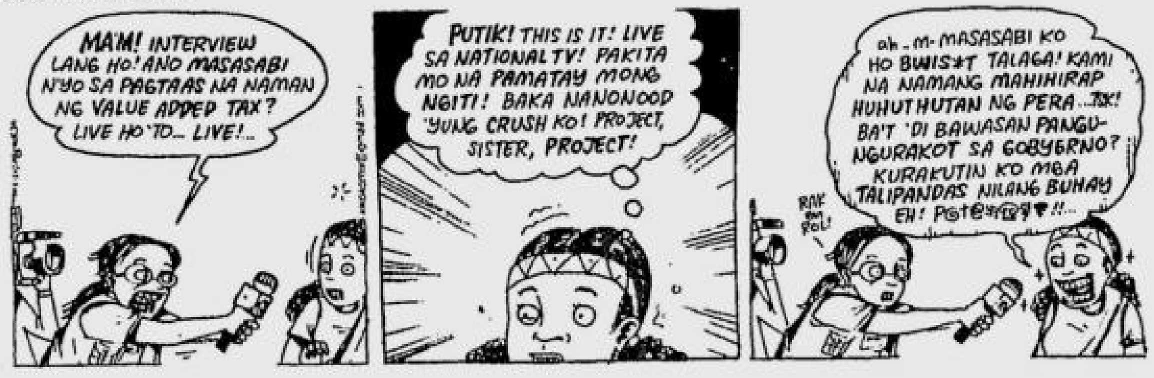
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAAARRGH!
I'LL GETCHA!
PLIK PLIKKA PLIK PLIK PLIK PLIKKA PLIK
OH NO!
ARE YOU PLAYING SOME KIND OF COMPUTER GAME?
I GUESS.. BUT THIS IS ONE GAME YOU CAN NEVER WIN...
...I'M PREPARING OUR TAXES!

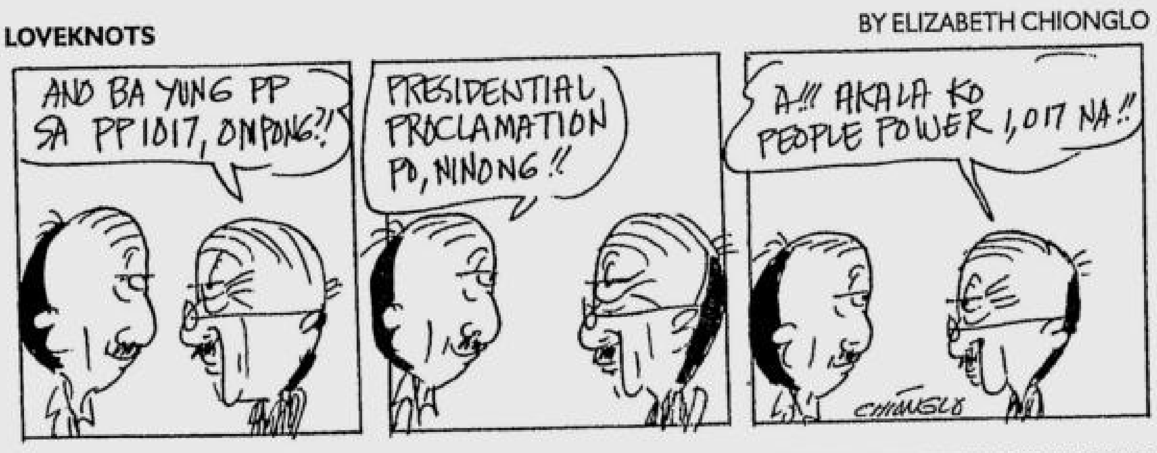
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


MA'M! INTERVIEW LANG HO! ANO MASASABI N'YO SA PAGTAAS NA NAMAN NG VALUE ADDED TAX? LIVE HO 'TO... LIVE!..
PUTIK! THIS IS IT! LIVE SA NATIONAL TV! PAKITA MO NA PAMATAY MONG NGITI! BAKA NANONOOD 'YUNG CRUSH KO! PROJECT, SISTER, PROJECT!
ah..m-MASASABI KO HO BWIS*T TALAGA! KAMI NA NAMANG MAHIHIRAP HUHUTHUTAN NG PERA...TAX! BA'T 'DI BAWASAN PANGUNGURAKOT SA GOBYERNO? KURAKUTIN KO MGA TALIPANDAS NILANG BUHAY EH! P@t@$@?!!...
RAK EN ROL!

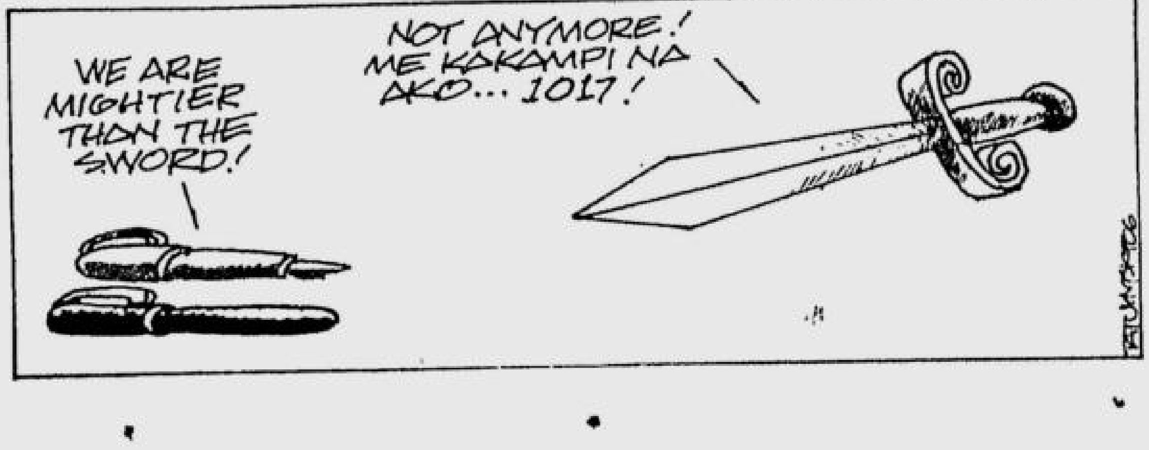
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

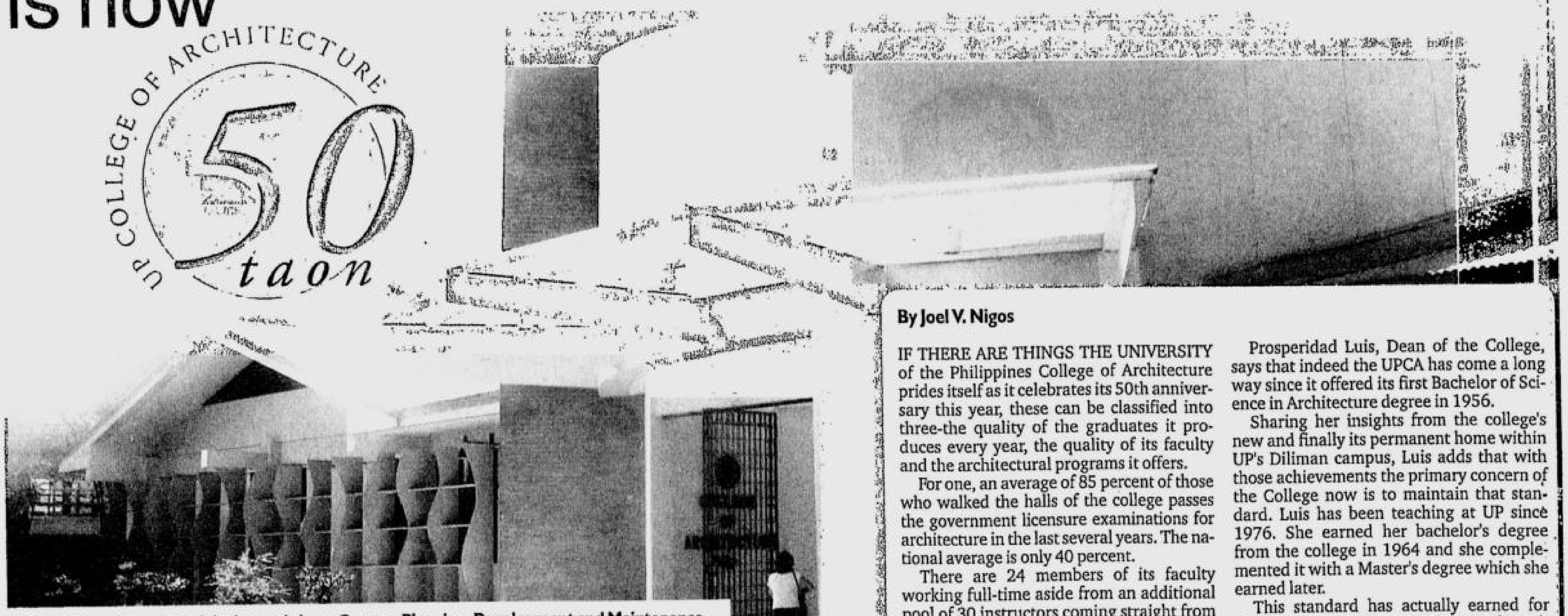

ANO BA YUNG PP SA PP1017, ONPONG?!
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION PO, NINONG!!
A!!! AKALA KO PEOPLE POWER 1,017 NA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WE ARE MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD!
NOT ANYMORE! ME KAKAMPI NA AKO... 1017!

UP College of Architecture is now



RISING from the ashes of the burned-down Campus Planning, Development and Maintenance Office is UPCA's Building 2 which boasts of a striking entrance and colorful undulating facade. Far from being merely ornamental and in the spirit of form and function being of equal significance, the curved fins lining the afternoon-facing walls of the building are sun-shades, protecting the interiors from heat and direct sunlight. It now holds the college's library, the administrative offices and the lecture classrooms in its basement.

By Joel V. Nigos

IF THERE ARE THINGS THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Architecture prides itself as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, these can be classified into three-the quality of the graduates it produces every year, the quality of its faculty and the architectural programs it offers.

For one, an average of 85 percent of those who walked the halls of the college passes the government licensure examinations for architecture in the last several years. The national average is only 40 percent.

There are 24 members of its faculty working full-time aside from an additional pool of 30 instructors coming straight from private practice. This faculty is instrumental in developing the college's curriculum which in turn hones the kind of graduates the college produces.

Prosperidad Luis, Dean of the College, says that indeed the UPCA has come a long way since it offered its first Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree in 1956.

Sharing her insights from the college's new and finally its permanent home within UP's Diliman campus, Luis adds that with those achievements the primary concern of the College now is to maintain that standard. Luis has been teaching at UP since 1976. She earned her bachelor's degree from the college in 1964 and she complemented it with a Master's degree which she earned later.

This standard has actually earned for UPCA the recognition as a Center of Excellence given by the Commission on Higher Education in 1999.

The College currently offers Bachelor's

ARCHITECTURE / E2

Messages

My warmest greetings to the faculty, students and staff of the UP College of Architecture as you celebrate your 50th Foundation Anniversary.

In this day and age of highly specialized fields, architecture holds a unique place as a discipline that is necessarily holistic. Your concerns as architects range from the soundness of a structure to its aesthetics to the lifestyles and living patterns of its occupants. There are few other people who would possess such a wide vision as the architect. The importance of this should not be underestimated.

The integrity and excellence of the College of Architecture curriculum are evidenced by the work your students produce-such as those seen in Haraya. Fifty years of such outstanding work as vital a field is most certainly cause for celebration.

I would like to congratulate the organizers for the success of this event, and thank the College most warmly for continuing to produce such high-quality architects in the service of our nation.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
UP President

It is with great pride that I join the students, teachers, administrators and staff of the College of Architecture as they celebrate their 50th Foundation Anniversary.

As anyone above 30 might say, with age comes wisdom. This is certainly as true of colleges as it is of people. And with 50 years behind it, the College of Architecture can stand proud, because those 50 years represent invaluable experience in the teaching of architecture that is difficult to match.

It is quite fitting therefore to celebrate this anniversary by holding this five-day long event called Haraya, which features, among other activities, an exhibition of the projects and accomplishments of the college's students this past year. After all, ultimately the proof of a college's success lies in the kind of students it produces.

Congratulations to everyone in the college. Let's all work together to make this anniversary celebration a meaningful and memorable one.

(Sgd.) SERGIO S. CAO
UP Chancellor

For an institution like a college of architecture to span half a century is an accomplishment in itself. But to span half a century with glowing achievements is something to celebrate about.

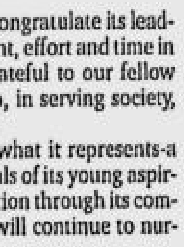
The UP College of Architecture is 50 years old now. Some 2,000 students have come, passed through its portals and left with hopes to conquer the professional world-and they have. Some 100 faculty members have taught and have gone with the belief that they have been part of the molding of good architects-and they are right.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our founding, we had brought out from the archives volumes of files and records which we pieced together to tell a story about ourselves. We had very modest beginnings, but nurtured by an atmosphere that gives premium to excellence and freedom of the soul and intellect, we had grown to be the best among architectural schools, architectural educators and architectural graduates in this country.

We are very proud of what we have become. It is a reason to celebrate indeed!

Happy 50th anniversary everyone!!!

(Sgd.) PROSPERIDAD C. LUIS
Dean, UP College of Architecture



My dear fellow alumni and friends,

Welcome home!

It is an honor and a privilege to welcome you to our new home-a most awaited event coinciding with the 50th anniversary of our College, the UP College of Architecture.

For at least five years, we as students spent more time in school than anywhere else. Our school became our home. This home became very much a part of us and we, a part of it. Here we gained knowledge, learned skills, and developed ideals. Experiencing all these, we cherish our schooldays but value our UP education even more having seen it open doors of opportunities to its alumni here and abroad.

We take pride in the first 50 years of the College and congratulate its leaders and faculty who have dedicated and contributed talent, effort and time in bringing the College where it is today. We are also grateful to our fellow alumni who have excelled in their profession and who, in serving society, have brought more honor to this College and its alumni.

It is our hope that this new home continues to be what it represents-a home that will teach, challenge and harness the potentials of its young aspiring students, a home that will foster excellence in education through its committed and competent faculty, a home that its alumni will continue to nurture and serve.

Together, let us work with greater zeal towards achieving new heights in the next 50 years.

Again, Welcome Home!

(Sgd.) MA. EDWINA CONSUNJI-LAPERAL
President, UP College of Architecture Alumni Foundation Inc.

Manahan is UAP's 8th Likha and Gold Award recipient

By Joel V. Nigos

"Be truthful in your profession. Put God first, then country and family as you do your work."

THUS SHARES GERONIMO V. MANAHAN, who was awarded with the Likha and Gold award by the United Architects of the Philippines on April 1 last year.

Manahan, only the eight recipient of such award, considers it as sweet since it is a recognition given by his peers in the profession. He joins Cultural Center of the Philippines architect Leandro Locsin, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas architect Gabriel Formoso, Cesar Canchela, Manuel Mañosa, Angel Lazaro, Bobby Mañosa and Felipe Mendoza in the elite list of awardees.

"This award is also especially meaningful for me because I'm the only one among the awardees who had taught architecture in school while at the same time practiced my profession," says Manahan. He attributes his success as an architect to the principle which he continuously adheres to this day.

The Likha and Gold Medal Award is the highest distinction that may be bestowed by the National Board as endorsed by the College of Fellows upon a Fellow. For an award to be handed out, the Board should be unanimous in making the decision.

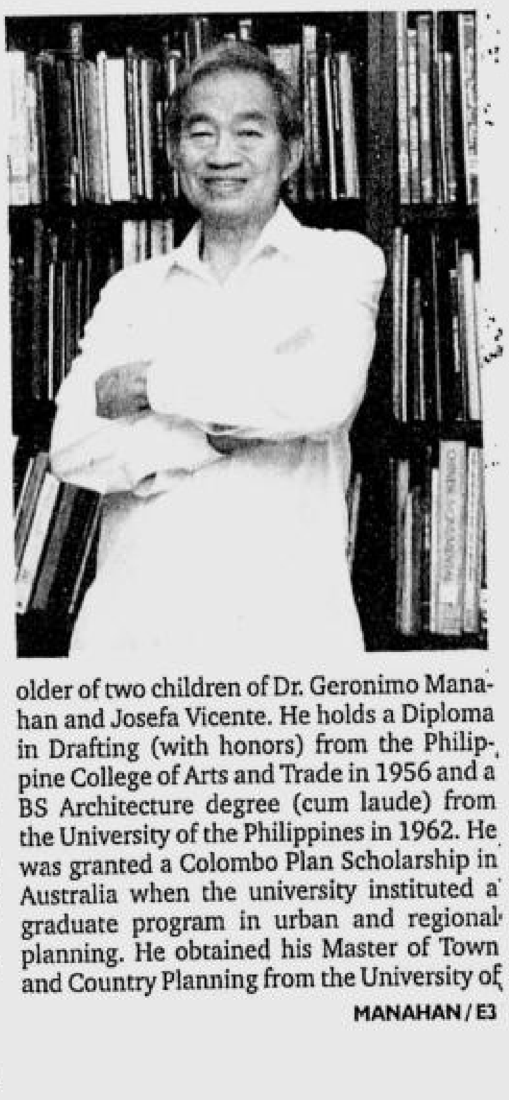
Manahan was also recognized for his "exceptional practice as a professional and exemplary performance as an Architect and Environmental Planner, an excellent and much admired Mentor and his unparalleled contributions to the improvement of Building Technology and Research in the field of his professions.

Asked what he considers as his contribution to the practice of architecture in the country, Manahan says, "I believe it is in education and research. I have written textbooks which are being used in teaching the program. I was also part of those who developed the ladder-type curriculum which is now in use in all Philippine colleges and universities. We have also developed a program based on the Philippine context of architecture and not solely relied on the Western-oriented practice."

Manahan is currently busy with his work at the Planning Resources and Operations Systems (PROS), an urban planning firm he set up with some partners including another Likha and Gold Medal awardee Manual Mañosa in 1976. He assumed the company's presidency in 1997. PROS' major projects include the reclamation of Manila Bay, the Business and Master Development Plan of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and government housing projects.

Manahan's specialization is in urban planning. Some of his latest assignments are the current Bohol Tourism Plan, the urban development and tourism plan for Sipalay, Negros Occidental, and the Aeropolis project of Aviva, an Ayala company. He's also doing significant research on housing and passive cooling which means energy conservation as applied to architecture."

Born on May 25, 1937, Manahan is the



older of two children of Dr. Geronimo Manahan and Josefa Vicente. He holds a Diploma in Drafting (with honors) from the Philippine College of Arts and Trade in 1956 and a BS Architecture degree (cum laude) from the University of the Philippines in 1962. He was granted a Colombo Plan Scholarship in Australia when the university instituted a graduate program in urban and regional planning. He obtained his Master of Town and Country Planning from the University of

MANAHAN / E3

UP College of Architecture:

A Center of Excellence

WHEN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722 OR the Higher Education Act was passed in 1994, one of its provisions was to expedite the attainment of relevant, responsive and quality higher education in the country. The Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) adopted the policy to promote quality and excellence in higher education by identifying, supporting and developing Centers of Excellence (COE) in higher education institutions. A COE is a higher education unit with a strong undergraduate program, research and extension capability, and preferably a good graduate program.

The UP College of Architecture was identified by the CHEd in 1999 as a Center of Excellence after attaining high marks in the evaluation process based on set criteria and therefore was granted the amount of P3 million to even raise further the quality of its educational offerings.

Thereupon, UPCA embarked on programs, projects and activities as a COE, guided and directed by its vision "for the College to be acknowledged leader in the enhancement of the designed and built environment for the upliftment of the quality of the life of the Filipino people."

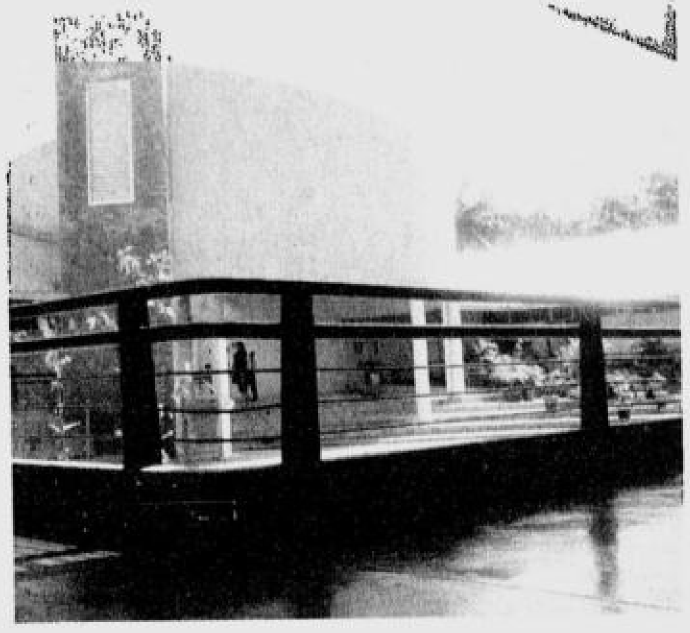
The UPCA has four offerings-two in the undergraduate level, Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Bachelor in Landscape Architecture; and two in the graduate level, Master in Architecture and Master in Tropical Landscape Architecture.

UPCA assessed, improved and updated its undergraduate curricula in 2002 based on guiding principles that would make them relevant to the times. Architectural design courses, for example, have been developed on a framework anchored on the themes "Self, Others and Environment," intended to present to the students the full spectrum of the architectural design. The "History, Theory and Criticism" series merge history and theory based on the belief that the discussion of the evolution of architectural theories cannot be detached from the events in history that provide the backdrop against which thoughts, values and principles developed. The course syllabi in "Planning and Urban Design" had been developed on the premise that the architectural profession is part of a bigger set of realities that entail a comprehensive and inter-disciplinary ap-

EXCELLENCE / D4

UPCA assessed, improved and updated its undergraduate curricula in 2002 based on guiding principles that would make them relevant to the times

UP College of Architecture is now 50



AURELIO T. Juguilon, he was appointed officer-in-charge of College of Architecture and Fine Arts, then later as dean on Nov. 1, 1965.

From page E1

degrees in Architecture and Landscape Architecture as well as Master's degrees in Architecture and Tropical Landscape Architecture.

Asked what makes UP architecture graduates unique and which they are proud of, she says, "The College's graduates are trained to become leaders of their own firms. We engender on our graduates the necessary leadership qualities that they need to be successful in their profession. They are also trained to be very resourceful, creative and output-oriented. When they leave the College, we make sure that they can already stand on their own two feet. The best can we can do is to train them and equip them with the necessary skills for them to be able to practice their profession well in the future."

Where it all began

UPCA started when Prof. Alfredo L. Juinio Sr., head of the UP College of Engineering's Department of Civil Engineering, was tasked by then Dean Crisostomo Ortigas to introduce a program in Architectural Engineering in 1954. But since the Bureau of Civil Service said that "there's no such thing as Architectural Engineering" and there were no board exams for such a course, this led to a decision that a Bachelor's degree in Architecture should be offered separately.

Aurelio T. Juguilon, a civil engineering graduate of UP who also took architecture in UST and has passed both board exams, later developed a curriculum for UP's Architecture program. On March 17, 1956, the UP Board of Regents approved the curriculum, which has a five-year duration instead of the four-year programs being offered in private schools.

All schools of architecture followed the UP program within a few years. In 1979, this was converted into a ladder-type curriculum on the initiative of the United Architects of the Philippines with UP faculty members Juguilon, Victor Tiotuyco and Geronimo Manahan and who were also active leaders of UAP, in attendance. The ladder-type program gives a Certificate of Drafting after the student completes three years of the course. After four years, the student is awarded a Certificate of Building Technology.

Juguilon was the only faculty member of the program when it was introduced on June 1, 1956 to the first batch of 38 enrollees. And after initially being under the College of Engineering, it was transferred to the School of Fine Arts creating the School of Fine Arts and Architecture two years later. In 1958, Efren P. Hernandez, was appointed the second faculty member.

Tiotuyco, fresh from a graduate study at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, then joined the faculty. The first lady faculty member, Lily T. de Leon and Honorato G. Paloma, Felizardo O. Gubatan Jr. and Teodoro R. Anel followed suit.

In 1961, the College produced its first-ever graduate in Leonardo Concepcion. In November of the same year, the School of Fine Arts and Architecture was elevated to the status of a College with Enrique J.L. Ruiz, an architect and artist as Dean. Juguilon and Fernandez were then both abroad for advance studies.

This was the time when academic freedom made it possible for faculty members to be creative and inventive in their teaching methods. Those methods include the "group architecture" theory of Walter Gropius and the "concept system" requiring well-thought of bases for even the very first design line to be drawn.

PROSPERIDAD C. Luis, Dean, UP College of Architecture

College of Architecture

Upon arrival from graduate studies, Juguilon was appointed officer-in-charge of CAFA, then later as dean on Nov. 1, 1965. On July 30, 1970, the Board of Regents split CAFA into two-the College of Fine Arts and the College of Architecture. Prof. Jose T. Joya was appointed Dean of the College of Fine Arts while Juguilon stayed as Dean of the College of Architecture.

New faces joined the faculty in the '70s. In 1970, Geronimo V. Manahan and Josefina M. Ramos; 1973, Mauro C. Simpliciano; 1974, Norma B. Chico, Ma. Cristina V. Turalba and Cristopher P. Espina; 1975, Honrado R. Fernandez; 1976, Prosperidad C. Luis; 1977, Manuel R. Aleta; 1978, Horacio C. Dimanlig; and in 1979, Armand S. Commandante.

Faculty augmentation was purposive.' The Bachelor in Landscape Architecture and the Master in Architecture programs were instituted. Two new faces, Manuel R. Aleta and Horacio C. Dimanlig, both Landscape Architects, were recruited to handle the Landscape Architecture program developed by Juguilon and his friend, prominent landscape architect, lecturer and "first faculty" of the program, Ildefonso P. Santos.

In 1974, the College produced its first graduates of its Master of Architecture program. The following year, the College added another feather on its cap with its first batch of Landscape Architecture graduates.

Learning was further enhanced with the creation of the College's own Library at the fifth floor of Melchor Hall with the help of Dr. Nathaniel B. Tablante, Vice President for academic affairs. This was found very helpful to students as they would no longer go to the

ARCHITECTURE / D3

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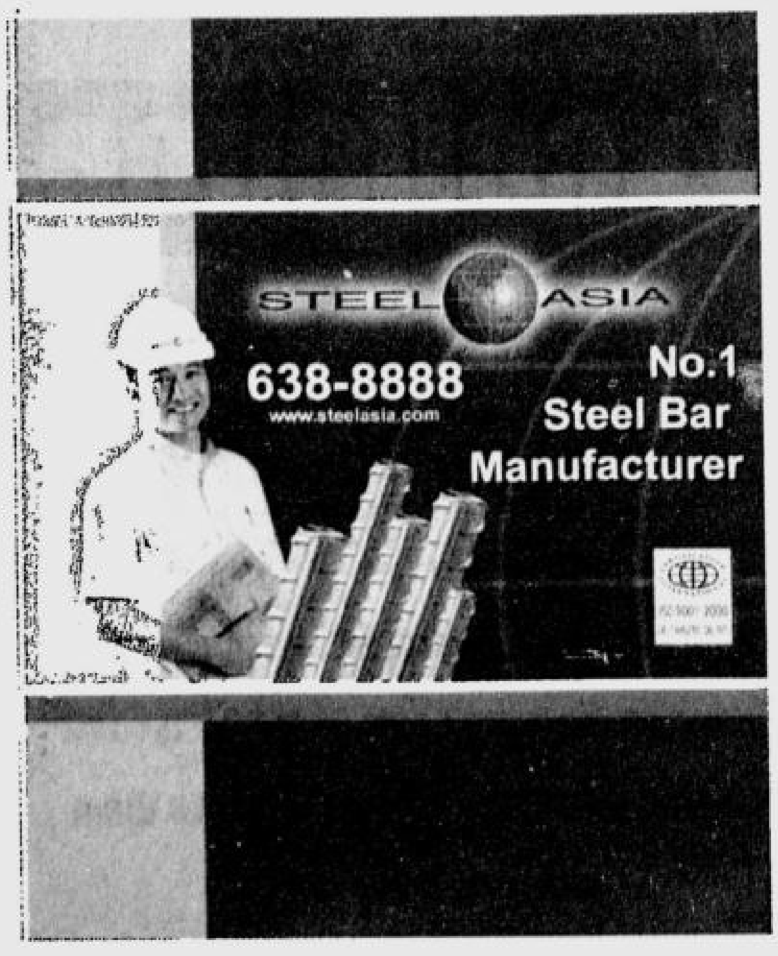

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UPCA ALUMNI FOUNDATION

'Home is where the heart is'

By Dr. Geronimo V. Manahan

FOR SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THE DEGREE programs in UP began, the alumni of the college were disorganized. No one wanted to come forward to formally organize the graduates into one active body. All were intent in establishing their careers, either here in the Philippines or abroad. This was the situation for almost two decades since architecture programs were set up at UP Diliman in 1956.

By the 1980s, the nonchalance of the graduates drastically changed towards a greater concern for their alma mater. This may be due to the attitude of the university authorities towards the College of Architecture. Or it may be because project proposals for the up-grading of the physical facilities of the college are getting more attention from the national government.

With a stronger prodding from the administration of the College of Architecture, the older graduates were asked to formally organize the alumni. Initially, the organization was a loose form of body, where the dean of the college, one of the first graduates of the UP program, took the cudgels in formally establishing the alumni association. This was also the time when the country took its leap away from martial law.

The period of organizing began with establishing the association's foothold in UP alumni affairs. The roster of graduates in architecture and landscape architecture in both undergraduate and graduate programs were organized. The alumni organization was deemed to be a foundation, hence the haste to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission as well as the registration of the foundation with tax-exempting bodies. An alumni website was also set up to provide the venue for alumni to communicate with each other. An alumni directory which today is in its second edition was also compiled. After this growing period, Rod Bernardo (B.S. Arch. 1970) assumed the helm from me. The alumni affairs became active in as much as the association's network was doing away with organizational growing pains. Batches had their contact persons who took the role of communicating with their classmates. Board meetings were held regularly so that events and activities can be programmed to make long-lost classmates meet and revive friendships, recall campus life and establish business relationships. It was also during Rod Bernardo's term when all the board examination topnotchers were recognized with diplomas and medals distributed care of the association. A vital program then was the raising of funds for the facilities and equipment of the new College of Architecture Complex.

UP College of Architecture Alumni Foundation Inc.

The College of Architecture now operates within its new physical plant. There are still other additional needs of the College at present and these are what the foundation is focusing on now.

Today, the UP College of Architecture Alumni Foundation Inc. (UPCAAFI) is headed by Dinky-Consunji Laperal (B.S. Arch. 1983). Besides the strengthening of the organization, as well as getting in touch with all alumni, its energy is concentrating on seeking the help of all alumni, friends and benefactors in the upgrading of the college facilities in order to make the operations of the college one rightful center of excellence in architecture education, research and community service.

THE WESTIN
PHILIPPINE PLAZA
MANILA

Manahan . . .

From page E1

Sydney in 1968. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy (Urban Planning) also from UP in 1992. He placed fourth in the Board examinations for architects in 1962. He had been licensed as Environmental Planner (Urban and Regional Planning) in 1995.

He served as faculty member of the University of the Philippines from 1962-1992, was appointed secretary of the college in 1971-1979, awarded a professorial chair in 1981 and finally appointed as dean of UPCA from 1985-1990.

As dean of UPCA, he concurrently directed the UP Building Services. He was also instrumental in the development of the ladder-type curriculum for the BS Architecture program, which became the framework of the ladder-type curriculum for all BS Architecture programs in the country. He also helped develop the curriculum for UP's Master in Architecture Program and Master in Urban Planning Program. He is currently chairman of a joint study committee of UPCA and the UP Architecture Alumni Foundation, Inc. setting up the proposed Center for Tropical Architecture.

Manahan is married to the former Margarita Roxas, a CPA and Central Bank manager for 43 years now. They have five sons, Ronaldo, Roberto (deceased), Roderic, Ronello and Raymond.

Where form, function meet

BUILDING 1 OF THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES College of Architecture was designed to house exhibit spaces, studio laboratories, teaching spaces, and a 300-seat auditorium in an enclosed space of over 2,000 sq.m.

The ground floor provides primary access through a three-story high, sky-lit cylindrical entry space that also encloses a ramped access to the second floor and an exterior balcony/viewing deck on the third level. The floor pattern features a demonstration model of a solar path diagram, utilizing sunlight from the corrugated polycarbonate skylight.

The ground floor is divided into three terraced levels each intended to provide flexible teaching spaces for the various studio laboratories. The space is intended to evolve as the initially indeterminate space requirements of the studio laboratories themselves evolve. Transient exhibits of student works are also intended to find liberal allocation in the resulting spaces.

The primary axis of the main space coincides with the longitudinal axis of the primary structural steel frame and runs approximately northeast-southwest. It traces a symbolic and historical vector towards Melchor Hall which was the home of the College of Architecture for over 30 years.

A secondary axis on which a slab-like protrusion of the second floor is based and which will eventually house three enclosed lecture rooms traces a second vector towards Gonzales Hall, the Main Library of the university which was the first home of the original College of Architecture and Fine Arts.

There is a third vector along which the curved ramp accessing the second floor is oriented. This vector traces toward the nearby Oblation statue at Quezon Hall, symbolizing the aspirational, forward-looking content of the academic objectives of the College. The ramp commences from a proposed entry node that will be articulated as a "non-ruin," a derivative, architectural pun that can eventually be the focus of a student design competition.

The "front" of the building is intended to degenerate into a non-façade, with the assemblage of elements neither attempting nor achieving a normative unity. The brick-faced wall is eventually expected to be covered, perhaps overgrown with the local version of "ivy" which is actually a variety of ficus. This will also demonstrate a natural alternative to wall insulation.

The roof structure is articulated by four over-size monitors. The monitors, with north-facing clear-storeys and aluminum louvered ventilation panels provide for natural convection to exhaust the warm air and cool the main volume of space in the structure.

The fully-glazed southeast wall of the building is currently screened by a growth of ipil-ipil trees, however, it is also intended to provide a demonstration frame on which student-designed solar screening elements can be mounted. The southwestern façade is less glazed, and is characterized by deeper volumetric protrusions intended to provide more protection from the warmer, albeit indirect afternoon sun. The proximity of the adjacent building (the former CPDMO building) which will house faculty, administration, library and classroom spaces also serves to mitigate the thermal impact of the afternoon sun.

The final articulation of finish and architectonic detail is intended to evolve as the building which provides a venue for student experimentation and innovation. It is then assumed that the building will never actually be "completed" as it undergoes constant, deliberate yet not necessarily "programmed" refinement.

UP College of Architecture is now 50

From page E2

Main Library for their research.

1 summa, 25 magna cum laudes

Lending more credence to the quality of its graduates, the College, from 1979 to the present has already produced a total of 25 magna cum laude graduates and in 1988, its first and so far only summa cum laude in Irene C. Ngo.

The 1980s saw the growing influence of computer technology in the College's programs. The College welcomed the change as it began to accommodate what it called technological revolution to its programs. This led to the introduction of the ladder-type curriculum-still the five-year course but with emphasis on incremental acquisition of skills necessary for a bachelor's degree. In such a process, the student was awarded in stages, first with a Certificate in Architectural Drafting after completing three years of the course, then a Certificate in Building Technology after four years, and finally a Diploma in B.S. Architecture.

In 1982, the College saw a remarkable increase in enrollees reaching the 500 students mark. This brought about the revival of the Architecture Student Council with the students ratifying its Constitution in June 1984.

In the meantime, in April 1984, the UP College of Architecture Foundation for Built Environment was incorporated under initiative of the faculty which included Geronimo V. Manahan, Victor N. Tiotuyco, Froilan L. Hong, Prosperidad C. Luis and Cristina V. Turalba with support from Antonio A. Turalba and Nathaniel von Einsiendel. Its foremost objective was to support the College in all its undertakings, commence researchers, and to raise funds for the improvement of its facilities.

On Sept. 1, 1984, Geronimo Manahan was appointed Dean of the College replacing Juguilon who has served for 18 years. Under Manahan, the College continued its dynamic development and instituted the Masters Program in Tropical Landscape Architecture in 1985. Manahan was succeeded by Honrado R. Fernandez in 1990 who served three consecutive terms ending in 1999. Fernandez aligned the architectural discourse in the College within the matrices of Philippine history and socio-cultural context. At this time, the College bolstered its research and extension functions by setting up its own research and extension unit in 1990.

National Center of Excellence

In 1999, the role of the College as preeminent leader in the architectural academe was confirmed by Commission on Higher Education which declared it as a National Center of Excellence in Architecture.

By century's end, Cristopher Espina was appointed Dean. He spearheaded the revision of the curriculum to reinvigorate the B.S. Architecture program of the College. He is also credited for laying the foundation of the Studio-Laboratory organizational structure, a scheme which efficiently clustered disciplines of architecture under Architectural History, Theory and Criticism, Environmental Architecture, Architectural Practice and Governance, Architectural Communication, Building Science, Urban Design, Architectural Design, and Landscape Architecture Studios. Moreover, Espina placed the College at the forefront of architectural research and education when he established the Council of Architectural Researchers & Educators (ARCHCARE) under the sponsorship of the College.

Continuing the legacy of excellence, Prosperidad Luis assumed office as the College's first woman Dean in 2002.

It was during this time when the College finally moved to its new and permanent home. Since the transfer is an ongoing process, Luis is zealously overseeing the completion of the College's new architecture complex.

The UP College of Architecture is now 50 years and throughout its half century of existence it has continued to break new ground for new concepts and approaches in the field of Architecture and Built Environment. Its faculty are among the pillars and fountainhead of architectural knowledge in the country, its graduates becoming not only shapers and molders of the built environment but builders of the nation as well. With these, along with its program offerings, the College has truly lived up to its recognition as a National Center of Excellence in Architecture.

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27. Jess Lucas '73

28. Pedro B. Ortigas, Jr. '71

29. John Pangilinan '93

30. Benjamin Tuason (San Francisco, California) '73

31. From New Jersey/New York , USA :
Daniel Marcon '82
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UPCA turns gold, comes home

THE UP COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE will celebrate its Golden Foundation Anniversary and General Alumni Homecoming on Friday, March 10, 2006 at its new building complex along E. de los Santos St., UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The College used to co-exist with the College of Fine Arts atop the UP Main Library (Gonzalez Hall) until it was transferred to the Fourth and Fifth Floors of the College of Engineering (Melchor Hall).

This year's theme, "High Time: Coming Home at 50" marks 50 years of the College and expresses the fulfillment of the long and all-time dream of a dedicated place of its own.

Registration starts at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. This will be followed by dinner, games, raffle, dancing and fellowship.

For details and for further inquiries, please call Wendy Fernando-Regalado at (0917) 8417860 or email at wendy_regalado_81@yahoo.com.

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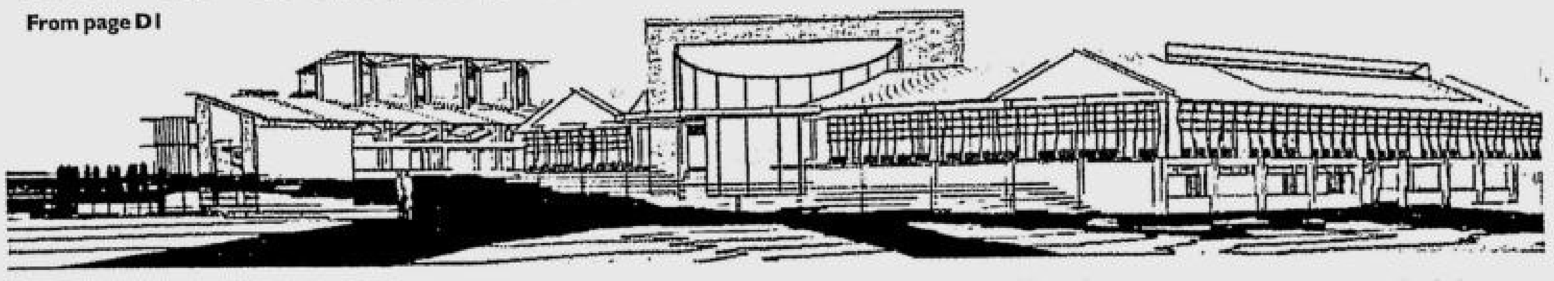

proach. "Architectural Communication" courses had shifted focus from "techniques" to "expression," with the objective of improving student's capability to communicate ideas through various media. The "Architectural Science" series would be delivered on the premise that the specialized fields of concern in building construction, structures and utilities must be integrated with the overall design process instead of simply factoring them in after the building form had been thought out. This way, the full potential of architectural science could be explored as a form-giver just like architectural design.

UPCA adopts a methodology that integrates teaching, research and extension. Research, for one, is integrated in the various teaching courses per year level, starting from "discovery researches" at the lower year levels that flame up interest for deeper researches followed by "integration researches" at the mid-levels in which students may innovate and develop new approaches, and finally ending with the "application researches" in the final year level to apply technology and innovation in the design approaches for the built environment. Extension work interfaces students with the community, providing the ingredient of reality in the whole recipe of learning. By meeting the stakeholders face to face, students learn that there are factors that temper their lofty ideals and that it is important to "have one's feet steady on the ground."

UPCA operates academically through its Studio-Laboratories which faculty members join in accordance with their expertise, without necessarily precluding their teaching other subjects outside of the studio-laboratory. The Studio-Laboratories are: Architectural Design, Architectural Science, Planning and Urban Design, Environmental Architecture, History, Theory and Criticism, Architectural Communication, and Profession and Governance. Supported by University Research Associates who help generate research projects, the studio-laboratories undertake comprehensive research work by integrating minor and sub-research work done on a subject in various courses in different year levels in both undergraduate and graduate programs. The studio-laboratory is the administrative and academic setting for comprehensive research work.

Human resources and physical resources are the greatest assets of UPCA. It is the requirement of the University of the Philippines for all faculty members to have finished a Master's degree. While all do have completed a graduate degree, others have continued their pursuit of education and had finished their doctoral degrees. The University encourages the continuing professional development of the faculty through participation in local and international forums supported by the Faculty Development Fund and Faculty Research Grant.

After 50 long years without a building of its own, the UPCA has finally transferred to its new home during in 2005. Home is a complex of two buildings proposed to be called the Juguilon Hall, after the first dean of the independent College of Architecture, Dean Aurelio T. Juguilon. A very concerned and active UPCA Alumni Foundation continually conducts vigorous fund-raising campaigns to help in the procurement of new furniture and equipment.

UPCA as a Center of Excellence is aware that one of its responsibilities is to act as a role model and engage in extension services in the national, regional and local communities. It willingly cooperates to provide assistance to other schools in terms of faculty and curricular development and other quality improvement activities.

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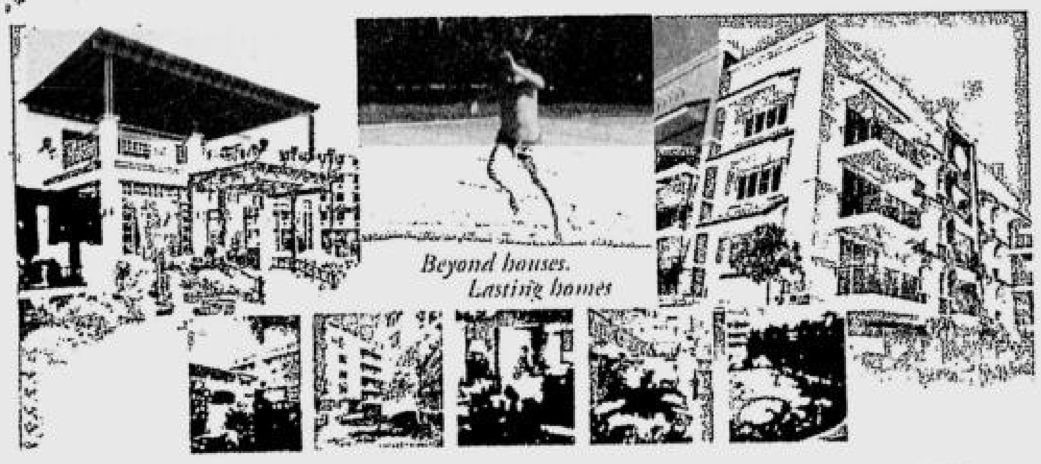

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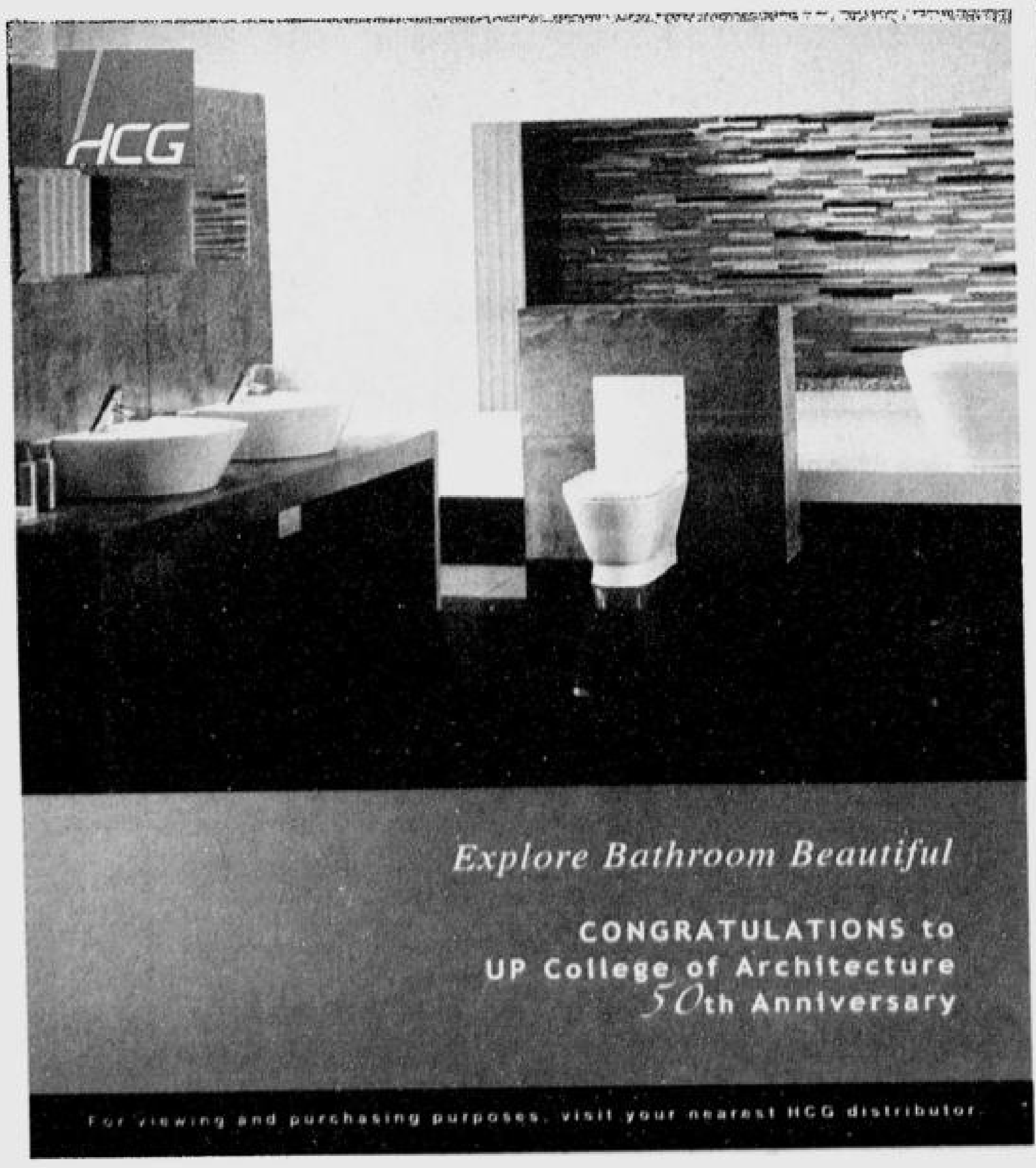

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